# & BUSINESS

#### Dollar edges down

REUTERS

The dollar edged down on Tuesday, but remained in tight ranges against peers, ahead of key inflation data from major economies this week that could inform the global interest rate outlook.

The greenback was also on the verge of its first monthly decline in 2024.

"A backdrop where the Federal Reserve can start cutting rates this year, even in December, is consistent with further dollar weakness," said Athanasios Vamvakidis, global head of forex strategy at BofA, who mentioned some weakness in US economic data and recent stronger than expected figures from the euro zone as the main drivers of the dollar slowdown.

He also highlighted that the Fed had pushed back against speculation about possible rate hikes, preventing the dollar from appreciating further.

Markets are currently more than fully priced for a US rate cut in December. They also discount an 80 percent chance of such a move in November and a 60 percent chance in September.

Against a basket of currencies, the dollar was down 0.11 percent to 104.44, for a 1.7 percent decline on a monthly

udl	STOCKS						
	DSEX		CASPI 🔻				
A Death	<b>0.59</b> % 5,278.88	-	<b>0.47%</b> 15,240.35				
Al-	COMM						
	COMMODITIES						
A OIL	Gold		Oil 📤				
	\$2,344.16		\$78.03				
	(per ound	ce)	(per barrel)				
ASIAN MARKETS							
MUMBAI	токуо	SINGAPORE		SHANGHAI			
0.29%	<b>0.11%</b>	<b>0.35%</b>		<b>0.46</b> %			

# **DSE** wants tax exemption for capital gains

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) yesterday demanded that the capital gains of individual investors be kept free of taxation in the upcoming national budget for fiscal year 2024-25.

The demand comes at a time when the National Board of Revenue (NBR) is planning to impose 15 percent tax on capital gains of more than Tk 50 lakh.

Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Hasan Babu made the demand at a pre-budget press briefing at Dhaka Club Ltd in the capital's Shahbagh.

"Any new tax will further burden investors in this crucial time as the market is still under pressure due to the fallouts of Covid-19 and the Russia-Ukraine war," he said.

Around 90 percent of investors in the stock market are institutional investors, who currently face a 5 to 10 percent tax on capital gains. The remaining 10 percent are individual investors.

individual investors' capital

gains, it will negatively impact the market by damaging their confidence," he added.

However, NBR officials said the move would not affect any small investors as they only want to catch some of the stock market's "big fish".



"The NBR doesn't have any intention to affect small investors who earn less than Tk 50 lakh from capital gains," an official of the NBR said, seeking anonymity.

Individual investors have benefited from tax breaks since 2015 as part of fiscal measures aimed at boosting Bangladesh's fledgling securities market.

However, the "If the NBR imposes tax on move comes in line with the International Monetary Fund's

(IMF) recommendations to reduce tax expenditure and increase revenue to meet its aim of increasing the country's tax-GDP ratio by 0.5 percent next fiscal year.

The DSE chairman also mentioned that existing source taxes should be reduced from 0.05 percent to 0.02 percent.

It was also proposed that corporate tax for listed companies be reduced by 2.5 percentage points from the existing 20 percent.

"The corporate tax gap between listed and non-listed companies should be 10 to 12 percent to encourage good companies in the stock market," he added. The current gap is 7.5 percent.

Besides, the DSE demanded a tax exemption on bond income and keeping dividend income of up to Tk 50,000 tax-free. AGM Sattique Ahmed Shah, chief financial officer and acting managing director of the DSE, Khairul Bashar Abu Taher Mohammed, chief regulatory officer, and Mohammad Asadur Rahman, general manager and company secretary, were also present.

# Nagad Digital Bank set to get licence

#### Kori Digital Bank given six more months to meet criteria

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Nagad is all set to get a licence for its 'Nagad Digital Bank', as it has successfully met the criteria after getting the letter of intent (LoI) from the central bank in October last year.

The details of the proposed Nagad Digital Bank were presented in the board meeting, which gave the final approval, Bangladesh Bank (BB) Executive Director and Spokesperson Md Mezbaul Haque told The Daily Star.

"So, it can be said that Nagad Digital Bank is going to get the final approval."

The central bank's board of directors chaired by Board Chairman and Governor Abdur Rouf Talukder took the decision of giving the licence in a meeting yesterday.

The banking watchdog has also decided to give six months' time to the proposed Kori Digital Bank to meet the LoI criteria -- the conditions which a digital bank should fulfil to get a licence.

The BB spokesperson said the proposed Kori Digital Bank wanted more six months to fulfil the central bank criteria and the board approved it.

Nagad is now running its mobile financial services (MFS) operation without receiving a fullfledged licence from the central bank as it did not fulfil all licensing criteria.

At one point, it wanted to run its MFS operations with a non-bank financial institution (NBFI) licence and it obtained the licence in May last vear.

In August 2023, Nagad surrendered the NBFI licence and sought a digital bank licence.

#### Inflation, dollar crises stymie

FROM PAGE B1

The statistical agency projects a 5.82 percent growth in FY24.

"The brunt of the conflicting situation in the world, especially in the Middle East, may affect the social, political, and economic aspects of Bangladesh as well as the whole world," said the MCCI.

"This conflict may have some effect on the country's economy, according to experts," it added.

The leading chamber, however, said the economy has been showing some signs of improvements in the last January-March quarter.

"Exports and imports are two important drivers of the economy, have done comparatively better," it address the economic fallouts.

It said the agriculture sector performed better in the second quarter of FY24 than the previous quarter because of favourable weather and government efforts towards ensuring the timely availability of inputs and finance.

Yet there are concerns. The MCCI said there was a

slowdown in external demand.

It said remittance inflow remained weak while there was a shortfall in revenue collection from the target and public expenditure remained

sluggish.
The chamber also cited rising inflation, depreciation of the taka against the US dollar, a decline in foreign exchange reserves, and low investment in recent months.

It said the real estate business has been sluggish, mainly because of high costs of property and a drop in the purchasing power of people as Bangladesh was yet to see tangible economic growth.

The MCCI cited sector insiders, FROM PAGE B1 saying they blame rising bank lending rates for a slowdown in business as it was weighing down sales despite people's unmet demand for housing.

The MCCI said the government and amid the present situation, both took quick and decisive measures to

"The government also needs take more actions to ensure a stable foreign exchange reserve, manage inflation, enhance revenue earnings, ensure proper electricity and gas supply for economic activities, reduce the cost of doing business," it added.

The MCCI said the government needs to put in the effort to find new markets for exports, promote economic diversification by revisiting the incentive structure, and protect small businesses and low-income people.

# Elon Musk's xAI secures \$6b in new funding

Billionaire tech mogul Elon Musk's startup xAI said it has raised \$6 billion from investors in an increasingly crowded artificial intelligence market.

from well known venture capitalists be used to take xAI's first products to Andreessen Horowitz, Sequoia Google and Meta.

total valuation to \$24 billion, based and accelerate the research and on a pre-infusion figure of \$18 billion cited by Musk.

"xAI is pleased to announce... Our Series B funding round of \$6 billion," the company said in a blog post on The latest funding, including Sunday. "The funds from the round will

and a Saudi prince, takes the firm's market, build advanced infrastructure, development of future technologies," it added. Musk teased on his social media platform X that there would be "more to announce in the coming weeks".

came from Valor Equity Partners,

Capital and Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal, among others.

Musk launched the company in July last year, shortly after he signed a letter calling for a pause in AI innovations. He is one of the world's few investors with The latest round of funding deep enough pockets to compete in the AI sphere with the likes of OpenAI,

### BB bypasses

At least the chief executives of three private banks told The Daily Star that the banking regulator had set a bad example by approving the

"Now other banks will follow suit,"

The central bank, in January, rejected an application from National Bank to appoint the bank's former managing director Mehmood Husain as its adviser since it breached the rules.

Sarwar neither received phone calls nor replied to text messages.

This correspondent also sought comments from Salman F Rahman. chairman of the bank, through his public relations firm Impact PR. However, the agency did not respond to the queries.

said one of them.

### FDI slips

Bangladesh received the highest net FDI from the United Kingdom, which channelled \$613.93 million, or 20.4 percent of the total.

Some \$366.96 million came from the Netherlands, \$314.9 million from the United States, \$259.54 million from China, \$181.43 million from South Korea, and \$176.87 million from Norway.

In 2023, the manufacturing sector attracted the maximum net FDI, bringing in \$1.26 billion. The power, gas and petroleum sector came second with an inflow of \$581.27 million.

sector received \$551.97 million, transport, storage and

million, and the services brought in operational costs, he said. \$208.52 million.

FDI stock in Bangladesh was \$20.55 billion at the end of 2023, down 5.1 percent from a year prior, BB data showed. It also fell in 2022,

the first decline in 19 years. Zaved Akhtar, president of the Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce & Industry, said there are a few provisions in the current tax regime that are creating an unfair tax burden on businesses. Such rules are adversely impacting the growth of investment and FDI.

This can be best illustrated by The trade and commerce how treating disregarded expenses as separate taxable income imposes an unjust additional tax liability on communication sector got \$290.11 businesses, thereby raising their volume of FDIs.

This is particularly problematic

environment, he said.

Moreover, the FICCI chief says, the taxes are considered as deducted or collected and the minimum tax can't be carried forward or refunded, further complicating the tax framework.

rules is crucial to lessen the financial burden on businesses, which will in turn stimulate investment, and foster a more supportive business climate.

Masrur Reaz urged the government to come up with a mid-term and long-term plan to attract a higher

because it undermines efforts cultivate a business-friendly

"Reforming such unfavourable

### Allocation for interest payments

However, the total allocation was Tk 12,376 crore, meaning that the entire year's allocation was surpassed in

only 10 months. In dollar terms, it rose 101.5 percent

to 1.15 billion. As the taka depreciated against the US dollar in the past two years, payments through the local currency increased significantly compared to

payments in dollars. An ERD official said the average exchange rate rose to Tk 110 per dollar during the current fiscal, up

from Tk 100 last fiscal. As the Bangladesh Bank has recently hiked the price of each dollar to Tk 117, interest payments for foreign loans will rise significantly next fiscal.

utilisation has also been increasing in recent times, with \$10 billion of foreign loans spent during each of the last two fiscal years.

Interest payments commence once the loan is utilised, thereby increasing the overall interest expenditure.

At the same time, interest rates of market-based loans have increased. Prior to the pandemic, interest rates of such loans were below 1 percent. But they have swelled to up to 9 percent in line with the international market.

The cost of funds mobilised through the sale of treasury bonds has also been on the rise, leading to further increases in interest expenditure.

The interest rate of treasury bonds has gone past 12 percent at

The government's foreign loan present from 8 percent in June 2023. according to Bangladesh Bank data. The interest rate for 5-year treasury

bonds rose to 12.5 percent in May this year from 7.91 percent in December 2022. It was 10.3 percent in December

Though sales of instruments such as national savings certificates are currently low and interest rates against them have fallen, many schemes have matured. This means the government's expenses in this segment have also gone up.

As of December government's outstanding debt stock was Tk 1,659,334 crore, according to the finance ministry's quarterly debt bulletin. Of that, domestic debt stock was Tk 953.814 crore while foreign loan stock stood at Tk 705,520 crore.

#### গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ পুলিশ সূপারের কার্যালয়, পাবনা pabna.police.gov.bd

দি পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন-২০০৬ ও পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা-২০০৮ এবং তৎসংশ্রিষ্ট সকল আইন ও বিধি মোতাবেক আগামী ২০২৪-২০২৫ অর্থ সালে পাবনা জেলার পলিশ বিভাগের নিশ্রলিখিত বাৎসবিক মালামাল ক্রয়ের নিমিন্ত প্রকত ঠিকাদার/সরববাহকারী/বাবসাধীদের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকত খামে প্রতিযোগিতামলব

31	মন্ত্রশালয়/বিভাগ	1	वास्त्रादमन भूमिन ।
21	সন্তো	1	পুলিশ সূপার, পাবনা।
01	ক্রয়/সংগ্রহের সন্তাধিকারীর নাম	8	भूमिन जुनाड, भारमा ।
81	ক্রব/সংগ্রহের সম্বাধিকারীর জেলা		शादना ।
¢ I	দরপত্রের পদ্ধতি	8	উনুক্ত দরপত্র আহবান পদ্ধতি।
61	বরান্দের উৎস		পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স, ঢাকা।
91	প্রকল্প/কর্মসূচির নাম (যদি প্রযোজ্য হবে)	1	ক্রম ও সরবরাহ এবং মেরামত।
bi	দরপত্র বিভাপ্তি পত্রিকায় প্রকাশের শেষ তারিখ	8	২৯-০৫-২০২৪দ্র.।
61	দরপত্র সিভিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	1	২৪-০৬-২০২৪ন্ট্ৰ, (অঞ্চিস চলাকালিন সময়)
100	দরপত্র ক্ষমা প্রদানের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	:	২৫-০৬-২০২৪ন্ত্ৰ. (১২,০০ ঘটিকা পৰ্যম্ভ)
1 66	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	:	২৫-০৬-২০২৪খ্রি, বেশা ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা দরশন্ত দাতা বা মনোনীত প্রতিনিধিদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি থাকে)।
150	দরপত্র মূল্যায়নের তারিব ও সময়	1	২৭-০৬-২০২৪ন্টি.। (ব্লো-১১.০০ ঘটিকা)
100	দরপত্র বিক্রয় গ্রহদের অঞ্চিসসমূহ/অঞ্চিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	:	পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, পাবনা।
184	দরপত্র বিক্রবের মূল অঞ্চিস	:	পুশিল সুপারের কার্যালয়, পাবনা।
1 30	দরপত্র খোলার ছান	1	পুলিল সুপারের কার্যালয়, পাবনা।
100	দরপর দাঝিশের স্থান	1	পুলিল সুপারের কার্যালয়, পাবনা।
1 P	ঠিকাদার/সরবরাহকারীর যোগ্যতা		হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেল, ঠিকাদারী লাইসেল, ভ্যাট রেজিটেশন সনদপত্র, আয়কর সনদপত্র, ভোটার আইডি'র ফটোকপি, কালো তালিকাভুক নয় মর্মে অঙ্গিকানামা, মালিকানা সনদপত্র, কাজের অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র, নমুনা শ্বাক্ষর, সিভিউলে উল্লেখিত টাকার বালনাগাদ ব্যাংক সলভেগি সনদপত্রের মূল কপি এবং পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবি ০১ কলি দাখিল করতে হবে (দরপত্র দাখিলের সময় সকল কাগজপত্র ১ম শ্রেণীর

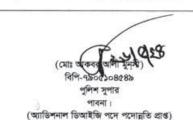
	माउँ मार	কাজের বিবরণ		দরপত্র সিডিউপের মূল্য (অফেরতবোগ্য)	দরপত্রের জামানতের পরিমান	মালামাল সরবরাহ কাজের সময়কাল	7864	
	(2)	পাবনা জেলা পুলিশ এবং পুলিল হাসপাতালে ব্যবহারের জন্য "অন্যান্য মনিহারি" সরবরাহ ।			-/٥٥٥, ۵	<del>-</del> 000,000/-	জুলাই/২০২৪ হতে জুল/২০২৫প্রি. পর্যন্ত	-
	(২)	পাবনা জেলা পুলিল এবং পুলিল হাসপাতালে ব্যবহারের জন্য "ব্যবহার্য সামশ্রী" সরবরাহ।			-\000/-	80,000/-	3	-
	(0)	) পাবনা জেলা পুলিল এবং পুলিল হাসলাতালে ব্যবহারের জন্য "খাছ্য বিধান সাম্ম্রী" সরবরাহ।			@oo/-	>000/-	à	
	(8)	পূলিন হাসপাত্তাদের রোগীদের পথ্য সরবরাহ।			@oo/-	₹,000/-	ঐ	
	(0)	পুলিল হাসপাতালের চিকিৎসা ও লৈল্য চিকিৎসা সরজামাদি সরবরাহ।			2,000/-	-\000,00	ď	-
22.1	(%)	পুলিশ ক্লোর্সের জন্য কুকড্ ফুড ও ওকনা খাবার সরবরাহ।			@oo/-	¢,000/-	ð.	
	(9)	পাবনা জেলা পুলিশের ব্যবহারের জন্য কম্পিউটার সামগ্রী সরবরাহ।			@oo/-	30,000/-	à	
	(b)	পাবনা জেলা পুলিশের ব্যবহারের জন্য জন্যান্য বন্ধপাতি ও সরক্ষামাদি সরবরাহ।			@oo/-	-\000,04	2	
	(8)	পাবনা জেলা পুলিশের সংশ্রিষ্ট যানবাহনের জন্য কাঁচামাল ও খুচরা যক্সংশ সরবরাহ।			3,000/-	\$,000,000/-	2	
	(30)	পাবনা চ্ছেশা পুলিলের সরকারি মোটরধান/জ্ঞশধান (মেরামত)।			3,000/-	@o,000/-	à	
	(77)	পাবনা জেলা পুলিশের যানবাহন ব্যবহার (চু <del>ভি</del> ডিন্টিক) সংক্রমন্ত সরবরাহ।			3,000/-	@o,000/-	à	
	(24)	পাবনা চ্ছেলা পুলিশ ফোর্সের ব্যবহারের জন্য আসবাবপত্র সরবারহ।			@oo/-	\$0,000/-	9	
	(20)	পাবনা জেলা পুলিল বাহিনীর সনস্যদের পোলাক খাত।			3,000/-	@o,ooo/-	à	
	(84)	পাবনা জেলা পুলিলের ব্যবহারের জন্য "ক্রীড়া সামগ্রী" সরবরাহ।			@oo/-	¢,000/-	à	
	(50)	পাবনা জেলা পুলিলের অনুষ্ঠান/উৎসবাদি সংক্রান্ত বিভিন্ন মাণ	শামাশ সরবরাহ।		@oo/-	¢,000/-	à	
1 64		নকৃত কর্মকর্তার নাম :		মোঃ আক্বর আশী মূন্সী				
201	দরপত্র গ	নৱপত্ৰ আহ্বানকৃত কৰ্মকৰ্তাৱ পদবী :			পুলিল সুগার, পাবনা।			
145	দরপর গ	রপর আহবানকৃত কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা :			পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, পাবনা।			
221	। বিশেষ নির্দেশনা ঃ							

২) হালনাগাদ মূল্য সংযোজন কর (ভ্যাটের সনদ), ব্যাংক ছিতির প্রতায়নপর মে/২০২৪ মাসের হতে হবে। সরকারী, আযাসরকারী ও ছাত্তপাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানের উল্লেখিত কান্ধের/

চাহিত কাণজ্বপত্র প্রদর্শন পূর্বক সিভিউল ক্রেয় করতে হবে।

কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে সকল বা আংশিক দরপত্র গ্রহণ/বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন

৫) দরপর সিভিউদে অন্যান্য শর্তবদী বর্ণিত রয়েছে যা দরপর গ্রহণ/ বাতিদের ক্ষেত্রে প্রযোজ্য ব্বে ৬) সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ দিন ও দরপর দাখিলের দিনে অনির্বাহ কারণে অঞ্চিস কছ প্রারজে তার ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি বা নোটিশ দেয়া হবে না।



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