

E-commerce lost Tk 1,700cr for internet shutdown, violence: e-CAB

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The e-Commerce Association of Bangladesh (e-CAB) has sought urgent government assistance, as the sector had suffered a loss of approximately Tk 1,700 crore in 13 days of July due to internet shutdown amid violence centring the quota reform protest.

The e-commerce business got closed completely amid the internet shutdown, said Shomi Kaiser, president of the e-CAB.

Internet services have partially restored, but the sector is still struggling due to the very slow internet speeds, she said.

Kaiser made the comments at a press conference at the association's office in Dhaka on July 31.

She said about 95 percent of the e-commerce transactions remained suspended in those 13 days due to various factors, including countrywide curfew and security concerns.

The e-CAB has taken an initiative to conduct a survey to assess the full extent of the damage.

The association presented a set of demands and suggestions aimed at mitigating the crisis.

Key demands included extension of bank loan repayment periods by at least six months for affected entrepreneurs, provision of loans on easier terms, temporary waivers on VAT for logistics and digital marketing, waivers and extensions for trade licence renewal fees, government intervention to negotiate refunds or re-advertisement options for active ads on Facebook during internet shutdown.



Delivery personnel were heavily impacted by the recent internet blackout as 95 percent of all e-commerce transactions remained suspended for 13 days in July amid the quota reform movement across Bangladesh.

PHOTO: STAR/FILE

Waive port charges incurred amid recent unrest Shipping agents urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chattogram

The Bangladesh Shipping Agents' Association (BSAA) has urged the government to waive all port charges incurred for delays in container handling amid the weeklong unrest, internet outage and stringent curfew that began on July 18.

The BSAA, the country's sole trade body for shipping agents, said they faced acute problems in handling vessels and completing other formalities, such as releasing import containers, during the week.

"The shipping industry is completely internet based both locally and internationally," BSAA Chairman Syed Mohammad Arif said in a letter to the Chittagong Port Authority.

"Things have been returning to normal day-by-day ever since internet connectivity was restored," he added.

The BSAA also said the stay time, including turnaround time, of vessels both at berth and the outer anchorage has increased due to the recent unrest.

For example, vessels seeking discharge were held up for two to three days, with some 10 feeder vessels and six breakbulk vessels failing to set sail as per schedule for delays in loading and unloading goods. As such, each vessel incurred costs of approximately Tk 1.5 lakh per day.

Also, the BSAA said feeder vessels sailed with fewer export containers than originally booked while most of them failed to connect with second carriers at transshipment ports.



Syed Habib Hasnat, managing director of Global Islami Bank, cuts a ribbon to inaugurate the operation of two sub-branches of the bank from its head office in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: GLOBAL ISLAMI BANK

Global Islami Bank opens two sub-branches

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Global Islami Bank yesterday launched two sub-branches – one at Mirpur Shah Ali of Dhaka and the other at Gazipur Bazar of Gazipur.

Syed Habib Hasnat, managing director of the bank, inaugurated the operations of the sub-branches as the chief guest from the bank's head office in Dhaka, the bank said in a press release.

Kazi Mashiur Rahman Jayhad, additional managing director of the bank, and Ataus Samad and Sami Karim, deputy managing directors, were present.

It was expected that through the latest technological support, the bank will provide quality service to the customers and will expand its network at home and abroad to provide "banking with faith" to its stakeholders, the press release added.

Divisional heads from the bank's head office, branch managers, sub-branch in-charges and clients were also present.

STOCKS	
DSEX ▲	CASPI ▲
1.01%	0.17%
5,333.93	15,119.23

COMMODITIES	
Gold ▼	Oil ▲
\$2,434.75	\$78.64
(per ounce)	(per barrel)

ASIAN MARKETS			
MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI
▲ 0.01%	▼ 2.49%	▼ 0.97%	▼ 0.22%
81,755.49	38,126.33	3,422.31	2,932.39

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Reference No: ABPLC/IT/MIS/Scanner/OTM/2024-2025/01 Date: 31/07/2024

e-Tender Notice

This is to notify all concerned that e-Tender has been invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for procurement of the following products. Interested firms can view details by visiting the web site www.eprocure.gov.bd.

SL No	Name of the Goods	Tender ID	Tender Publishing Date & Time	Tender document closing/opening date and time
1.	Procurement of MICR Cheque Scanner for Agrani Bank PLC.	1004673	Date: 01/08/2024 Time: 11:25 hours	Date: 18/08/2024 Time: 15:30 hours

- This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.
- To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.
- The fees for downloading the e-Tender Document from the National e-GP System Portal to be deposited through any registered bank's branch.
- Further Information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

sd/-
(Kazi Aminul Haq)
Deputy General Manager
Information Technology & MIS Division
Agrani Bank PLC.

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COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIPS

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
University Grants Commission of Bangladesh
UGC Bhaban, Plot # E-18/A, Agargaon Administrative Area
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
www.ugc.gov.bd

Commonwealth Scholarships tenable in the UK (PhD) – 2025

(Academic Scholarship for Public University Faculties)

Applications (with the nomination of the respective public university) are invited from the interested full-time public university faculties of Bangladesh for Doctoral (PhD) Degree up to three year's duration under the Commonwealth Scholarships in the United Kingdom-2025. All the information (including Eligibility Criteria, Terms and Conditions, Direction/s, Application Form, Short list/s, Interview Date/s, Result/s and other relevant information etc) regarding the Commonwealth Scholarship-2025 (Academic Scholarship for Faculties) will be uploaded at the University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh website (www.ugc.gov.bd) under the heading of "Notice Board/International Collaboration, Scholarship and Fellowship" box timely. The applicants must check and collect all the information from the UGC website by his/her own responsibility. No communication will be done with the applicant/s from UGC side. **The last date for sending the nomination/s from the Registrar's Office is 15 September, 2024. No Application Form will be received (by Email or Hard Copy) after the last date.**

N.B: UGC, Bangladesh preserves the rights to take decision/s regarding Commonwealth Scholarships tenable in the UK (PhD) – 2025 (Academic Scholarship for Faculties) and that will be considered as the final decision.

Dr. Ferdous Zaman
Secretary, UGC

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EU halts Dhaka talks

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In fact, Bangladesh is the largest garment supplier to the EU in terms of volume, overtaking China.

The country is also the largest denim supplier to the EU. It is estimated that one in every three persons in the EU wear denim trousers made in Bangladesh.

The EU has already informed that its rules would allow Bangladesh to be eligible for the existing trade benefits for three years past the country status graduation, meaning till 2029.

But after that, Bangladesh will face a 12.5 percent duty if it fails to come under the GSP Plus scheme fulfilling the EU's conditions over 32 international conventions, including four core ones on labour, human rights, good governance and environmental protection.

Mohammad Abdur Razzaque, chairman of the Research and Policy Integration for Development, echoed Rahman's views.

Investors and buyers in the EU, dealing with billions of dollars of investment and trade, are in the dark over their next course of action for the tension surrounding the postponement of negotiations, he said.

It is expected that the government will handle the situation with the EU diplomatically and politically as the bloc matters a lot for Bangladesh, said Faruque Hassan, former president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association.

Businesspeople will also talk with the government to give advice so that the relationship with the EU does not deteriorate further, he said.

31 listed banks see a surge

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11.64 percent to 11.95 percent. Similarly, the rate for treasury bonds with different maturity periods ranges from 12.30 percent to 12.75 percent, as per central bank data.

The official said banks do not need to assess the risk when investing in government bills and bonds while the process is easy and carries almost no cost.

However, lending to any sector carries risks and processing costs while a credit team is needed to work on issuing disbursements subject to various conditions and also need to communicate with borrowers.

"So, smart banks preferred investing in treasury bills and bonds and have reaped the benefits," he said.

For instance, BRAC Bank's investment income doubled to Tk 1,191 crore in the first half of 2024. This was the highest investment income among all the 31 listed banks.

Powered by high investment income, BRAC Bank's profit surged 77 percent year-on-year to Tk 591 crore, the company said in its financial statement.

Pubali Bank, another private bank, was the second highest profit-making company during the six-month period ending in June. Its earnings rose to Tk 431 crore during the period.

National Bank incurred the highest loss of Tk 1,066 crore in the January-June period while ICB Islamic Bank saw losses of Tk 28 crore.

Fed keeps key rate unchanged

AFP, Washington

The US Federal Reserve left its key lending rate unchanged again on Wednesday and said it had made "some further progress" in its inflation fight.

Policy makers voted unanimously to maintain the US central bank's benchmark interest rate between 5.25 percent and 5.50 percent, the Fed announced in a statement following two days of deliberations.

After a small uptick in inflation earlier this year, recent data suggest that the Fed's mission of bringing inflation back down to its long-term target of two percent is now firmly back on track.

Its favored measure of inflation eased to an annual rate of 2.5 percent last month, while economic growth has remained resilient, and the labor market has come into better balance.

দি সিকিউরিটি প্রিন্টিং কর্পোরেশন (বাংলাদেশ) লি:
গাজীপুর-১৭০৩।

আইনজীবী প্যানেলভুক্তিকরণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

গাজীপুর জেলার নিম্ন আদালত এবং ঢাকা স্থল সূত্র কোর্টের হাইকোর্ট ও আপিল বিভাগে মামলা পরিচালনাসহ কোম্পানির নানা বিষয়ে আইন সংক্রান্ত পরামর্শসহায়তা প্রদানের জন্য আদালত ভিত্তিক অভিজ্ঞ আইনজীবী প্যানেলভুক্তির নিমিত্তে নিম্নলিখিত শর্ত পূরণকারী বাংলাদেশের নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে লিখিত দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে:

- অভিজ্ঞতা :** ক) গাজীপুর জেলার আদালতসমূহের জন্য- গাজীপুর জেলার নিম্ন আদালতে দেওয়ানী ও ফৌজদারী মামলা পরিচালনায় কমপক্ষে ১৫(পনের) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে।
খ) ঢাকা স্থল হাইকোর্ট/সুপ্রিম কোর্টের জন্য- সুপ্রিম কোর্টের হাইকোর্ট বিভাগ ও আপিল বিভাগে বিভিন্ন মামলা পরিচালনায় প্রার্থীকে কমপক্ষে ১০(দশ) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে।
গ) কোম্পানি আইন বিষয়ক পরামর্শ ও মামলা পরিচালনার জন্য কোম্পানি আইনেও অভিজ্ঞ হতে হবে।
ঘ) আইন পেশায় উচ্চতর ডিগ্রীধারী প্রার্থীগণকে অগ্রাধিকার দেয়া যেতে পারে।
- চুক্তির মেয়াদ :** ০৩ (তিন) বছর।
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- অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী :** ক) অবসরপ্রাপ্ত বিচার বিভাগীয় কর্মকর্তা যারা আইন পেশায় নিয়োজিত আছেন এবং উপরোক্ত অভিজ্ঞতা আছে তারাও আবেদন করতে পারবেন।
খ) আবেদনকারীকে অবশ্যই বাংলাদেশী নাগরিক হতে হবে।
গ) আবেদনকারীকে অবশ্যই সুস্থস্থের অধিকারী এবং মানসিকভাবে সুস্থ হতে হবে।

আগ্রহী প্রার্থীদের ২(দুই) কপি ছবিসহ অভিজ্ঞতা ও পূর্ণ জীবন বৃত্তান্ত উল্লেখপূর্বক সকল সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত কপিসহ দরখাস্ত অফিস চলাকালীন (বেবিবার হতে বুধসপ্তাহের সকাল ৮.০০ টা হতে বিকাল ৪.৩০ টা পর্যন্ত) আগামী ০১/০৯/২০২৪ তারিখের মধ্যে ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক, দি সিকিউরিটি প্রিন্টিং কর্পোরেশন (বাংলাদেশ) লি: গাজীপুর-১৭০৩ এ টিকানায় পৌঁছাতে হবে।

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(মোহাম্মদ জহির হোসেন)
মহাব্যবস্থাপক (প্রশাসন)

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