

Star BUSINESS

Transport activities through the Dhaka-Chattogram highway partially resumed yesterday after a three-day disruption due to flash floods



Story on B4

BB hikes policy rate to tame inflation

MD ASADUZ ZAMAN

Bangladesh Bank (BB) yesterday hiked the policy or repo rate, meaning that at which commercial banks borrow from the central bank, by 50 basis points to 9 percent to rein in inflation.

An increase in the policy rate is expected to lead to bank borrowing turning costlier, for which people will cut down on expenditures, thereby curtailing demand and subsequently bringing down inflation.

The central bank decided to raise the policy rate at a meeting of the monetary policy committee at the central bank headquarters yesterday.

The policy rate was last increased on May 8 by 50 basis points to 8.5 percent in line with the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) prescription as inflation had stayed over 9 percent since March last year.

Subsequently, consumer prices grew 11.66 percent in July, the highest at least since fiscal year 2010-11, reflecting the worsening situation of the purchasing capacity of people, according to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS).

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Eliminate scope to whiten black money FBCCI urges NBR

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI) yesterday demanded the abolishment of a provision that allows black money to be whitened without scrutiny by paying a 15 percent tax.

The apex trade body voiced the demand during a meeting with Md Abdur Rahman Khan, newly appointed chairman of the National Board of Revenue (NBR), at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in Dhaka, according to a press release.

"There cannot be any discrimination between honest and corrupt taxpayers. This type of amnesty should never be given again to ensure justice and remove social discrimination," said FBCCI President Mahbul Alam.

Such a provision can never be desired when building a corruption-free society or state, he added.

Other members of the delegation included FBCCI Vice-President Md Munir Hussain and Directors Mohammad Fayazur Rahman Bhuiyan, MA Razzak Khan, and Abul Kasem Khan.

On his first day in the NBR office, Khan told reporters that the scope to whiten black money should not exist at all.

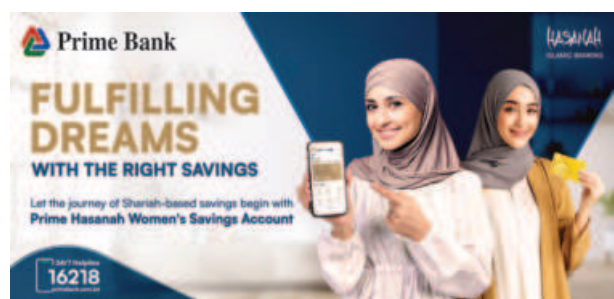
"The amnesty for black money is unexpected and ineffectual," he said.

Alam also called on the NBR chairman to simplify customs duty processes for imported goods to ensure a business-friendly environment by removing complexities related to duty values, HS codes and product descriptions.

They further urged him to curb the harassment of taxpayers during audits and dishonest practices by officials.

To this end, they proposed creating a hotline, app or complaint centre for businesspeople that face harassment.

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DROP IN IMPORTS

Capital machinery import dropped 24% to \$2.65b in FY24

Import of industrial raw materials fell 16% to \$21.75b in FY24

Import of intermediate goods declined 12% to \$4.84b in FY24

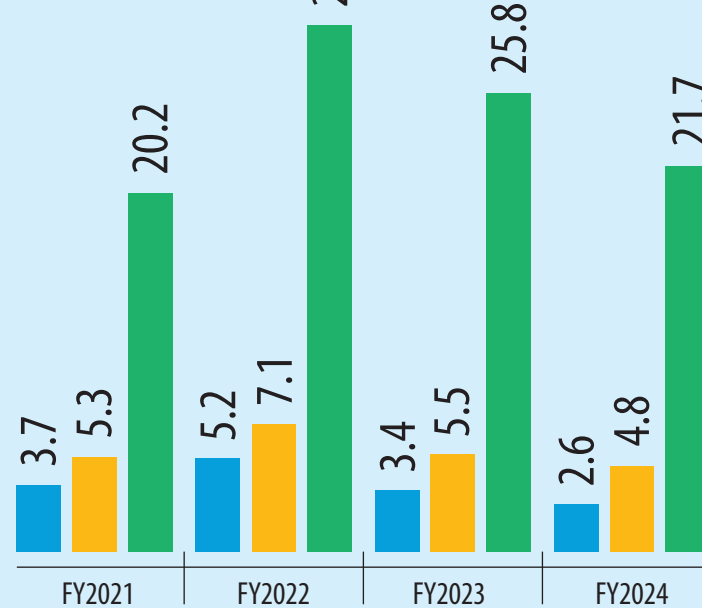
AT A GLANCE

- Decline in capital machinery imports signals industrial degrowth
- Investors are hesitant to set up or expand factories as consumption declines
- Slowdown in private investment has negative implications for economy
- Foreign investors are taking a go-slow approach

LC settlement in the last four years

In billion \$; SOURCE: BB

Capital machinery
Intermediate goods
Industrial raw materials



Key imports fall, painting bleak outlook for investment, jobs

JAGARAN CHAKMA

Bangladesh's imports of capital machinery, industrial raw materials, and intermediate goods fell for a second consecutive fiscal year, reflecting the depressed state of private investment and bleak prospects for new jobs.

Data from the Bangladesh Bank on the settlement of letters of credit (LCs) shows that imports of capital machinery, a key indicator of investment, dipped 24 percent year-on-year to \$2.66 billion in FY24, which ended in June.

In the preceding fiscal year, capital machinery imports plunged by 34 percent.

The decline is a consequence of persistent US dollar shortages and increased import costs due to the devaluation of the local currency.

"The decline in imports of capital machinery shows a clear path of degrowth in investment in the industrial sector, which will adversely affect employment generation," said Khondaker Golam Moazzem, research director at the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

The data shows that investors are not interested in financing new industries or expanding existing manufacturing units, he said.

Data from the central bank also showed that imports of industrial raw materials went down 16 percent year-on-year to \$21.75 billion in FY24 due to falling exports and slowing domestic demand in the face of spiralling inflation.

The value of imported industrial raw materials dropped by 13 percent

in the preceding fiscal year.

Moazzem added that global demand for products exported by Bangladesh has fallen. At the same time, domestic demand has declined significantly, which is why investors do not want to take risks.

"So, the contribution of the industrial sector to the country's gross domestic product (GDP) will decline for a long time," he said.

The country's economy has endured a few difficult years recently due to numerous challenges, he said.

The decline in imports of capital machinery shows a clear path of degrowth in investment in industrial sector, said an economist

For example, forex reserves shrank from \$41.7 billion in August 2021 to \$20.41 billion on July 31 this year, central bank data showed.

Due to the distressed scenario of foreign exchange reserves, foreign investors are adopting a go-slow strategy, he said.

Moazzem further said small- and medium-entrepreneurs (SMEs) would face severe challenges.

Selim Raihan, executive director of the South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (Sanem), said the reduction in capital machinery imports occurred as import restrictions were put in place due to the scarcity of the greenback. He attributed increases in the price of

US dollars as another reason.

"It reflects how much private investment declined during the past two years," he said, adding that there was a negative impact on private sector investment while private sector credit growth slowed significantly.

Raihan cautioned that another implication of falling capital machinery imports would be a slowdown in economic growth in the coming days.

"Investment will slow and that will impact the job market as employment generation will be reduced," he added.

"We need time-befitting policy decisions, including exchange rate policies, to improve the situation," he suggested. Necessary measures to boost exports and remittances should also be taken to reduce the pressure of the dollar crisis.

"Simultaneously, we need to investigate whether money was laundered through over-invoicing and take initiatives to bring back that money," Raihan said.

The government should rethink import restrictions and monitor exports and imports to avoid over and under invoicing.

M Masrur Reaz, chairman of the Policy Exchange of Bangladesh, said the drop in capital machinery imports was a real concern for industrial production and its contribution to the economy.

Industrial output will be reduced immediately, and export capacity will not improve, he said.

At the same time, economic output will be reduced and capital will not be created.

Govt to give no quarter for black money

Finance adviser says

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The interim government will not leave any scope for generating black money and the Bangladesh Bank is already working to bring money siphoned off abroad back into the country, Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed said yesterday.

He made these comments after meeting with a delegation of the United Nations at the National Economic Council (NEC) of the Planning Commission in Dhaka.

Ahmed, also a former governor of the country's central bank, said the interim government is receiving many proposals regarding amendments to budgetary measures for fiscal year 2024-25.

"So, the budget will be amended but unilateral decisions cannot be taken in this regard," he added while emphasising that no scope will be given to generate black money.

Responding to a question regarding the country's foreign debt, Ahmed said loans will now be taken selectively considering the growing external burden.

"Foreign loans will not be taken for projects that linger for years," he added.

Earlier in the day, Helen LaFave, chargé d'affaires of the US Embassy in Dhaka, called on

Ahmed at his office at the secretariat and shared America's observations regarding labour rights in Bangladesh.

At the meeting, the issue of granting the Generalised System of Preference (GSP) for Bangladesh, which the Obama administration had canceled following the collapse of Rana Plaza.

And although Ahmed said issues related to labour rights would be resolved quickly, he did not go into details about the discussion on this matter.

Ahmed expects that the US might restore the GSP benefit for Bangladesh if certain conditions are met as some problems remain.

"Some US companies complained that they were unable to send their earnings back home. Many of our companies were also banned in the US," he said while adding that a high-level US delegation will soon come to Bangladesh to resolve the issues.

He said the US is an important country for Bangladesh, both politically and economically.

From an economic viewpoint, most embankments in coastal areas, including Bagerhat and Pirojpur, were financed by the US.



STOCKS	
DSEX ▲	CASPI ▼
0.01%	0.01%
5,700.58	16,375.76

COMMODITIES		AS OF FRIDAY
Gold ▲	Oil ▲	
\$2,512.18	\$74.77	
(per ounce)	(per barrel)	

ASIAN MARKETS				FRIDAY CLOSINGS
MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	
▼ 0.04%	▼ 0.40%	▼ 0.43%	▼ 0.20%	
81,086.21	38,364.27	3,387.99	2,854.37	

BSEC to focus on good governance, transparency

Says new chairman

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) will focus on ensuring good governance and transparency so that the confidence of investors in the stock market makes a rebound, said its chairman, Khondoker Rashed Maqsood, yesterday.

The stock market regulator will also focus on investigating alleged irregularities that took place over the last 15 years, he said.

"I have not brought any magic. I hope that by bringing about a basic form of good governance, transparency and enforcement of rules and regulations will lead to a rebound in the confidence of people on the stock market," he said.

Maqsood made the comment at a press briefing at the BSEC in the capital to inform of his plans on being appointed to the top position at the regulatory body on August 18.

"The new interim government sent me to reboot the system while my first priority would be to bring good governance," said the former strategy and business development adviser of International Finance Corporation.

The stock market has gone astray by a really large margin in the last 15 years and it is a tough and time-consuming task to bring about good governance, he said, hoping for the situation to turn comfortable soon on condition that focus can be retained.

"We don't want to bring back confidence through any artificial mechanism or window dressing like before," said Maqsood.

Among the core activities, the BSEC will focus on ensuring transparency in the market and part of it

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Rice prices rising despite ample harvests

SUKANTA HALDER

Rice prices are rising in spite of an ample amount being produced in the just concluded fiscal year, causing hardship for low and fixed-income people who are already struggling to make ends meet amid persistently high inflation.

Traders in the supply chain denied any responsibility, with retailers blaming wholesalers, who blamed mill owners, who subsequently blamed farmers for raising prices of unprocessed paddy amidst floods in the eastern part of the country.

The natural calamity will undoubtedly affect ongoing Aman cultivation and prospects of Aush paddy in the winter.

However, farmers availed a higher yield of Boro in June this year, according to estimates of government agencies.

Over 4 crore tonnes of milled rice were gained in fiscal year 2023-24, up from 3.90 crore tonnes in the preceding year, according to estimates of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) and the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE).

The BBS estimates that last monsoon's yield of Aman, which accounts for roughly 40 percent of total annual rice production, was up 8 percent year-on-year to a record high.

The BBS has not published the production data of Boro, the principal crop, but the DAE said 2.24 crore tonnes of milled rice were bagged in the immediate past season.

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Wholesalers have acknowledged that prices of rice have gone up by around Tk 4 per kg in the last seven days.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Southeast Bank signs deal with Genex Infosys

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Southeast Bank recently signed an agreement with Genex Infosys, an information technology solutions and services provider in Bangladesh.

Nuruddin Md Sadeque Hossain, managing director of the bank, and Shah Jalal Uddin, managing director and CEO of Genex Infosys, penned the deal at the bank's head office in Dhaka, according to a press release.

This collaboration will integrate the bank's 'Acquiring Payment Gateway' into the IT company's Electronic Fiscal Device (EFD) machines.

The IT company will route the bank's payment gateway for card transactions across its extensive network, enabling efficient and seamless generation of VAT invoices for merchants throughout the country.

The partnership will play a role in



Shah Jalal Uddin, managing director and CEO of Genex Infosys, and Nuruddin Md Sadeque Hossain, managing director of Southeast Bank, pose for photographs after signing an agreement at the bank's head office in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: SOUTHEAST BANK

advancing the move towards a cashless society while promoting greater financial inclusion, the press release added.

It will also enhance the VAT collection processes for retailers, contributing to

increased government revenue.

The agreement reflects the bank's commitment to innovation and its ongoing efforts to support the digital transformation of the financial landscape of the country.

Md Masum Uddin Khan and Abidur Rahman Chowdhury, deputy managing directors of the bank, and senior officials from both organisations were also present.

Rupali Bank holds EGM, AGM

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Rupali Bank organised its 9th extraordinary general meeting (EGM) and 38th annual general meeting (AGM) at the bank's head office in Dhaka yesterday.

Md Nazrul Huda, chairman of the bank, presided over the meeting, the bank said in a press release.

Shah Alam, additional secretary of the Financial Institutions Division at the Ministry of Finance, attended the meeting as a government representative.

Mohammad Jahangir, managing director of the bank, alongside directors, deputy managing directors, and shareholders were also present.



Md Nazrul Huda, chairman of Rupali Bank, attends the bank's 9th extraordinary general meeting and 38th annual general meeting at its head office in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: RUPALI BANK

National Bank opens relocated Mazar Road branch

STAR BUSINESS DESK

National Bank Limited opened a relocated Mazar Road branch in Dhaka yesterday.

Md Touhidul Alam Khan,

managing director and CEO of the bank, inaugurated the branch as chief guest, according to a press release.

He expressed optimism that the quality and scope of services for customers would increase.

Imran Ahmed, deputy managing director, was present as a special guest.

The branch manager of the Mazar Road branch, officials, businesspersons and local dignitaries were also present.



Md Touhidul Alam Khan, managing director and CEO of National Bank, cuts a ribbon to inaugurate the relocated Mazar Road branch of the bank in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: NATIONAL BANK

Eastern Bank declares Tk 3cr relief package for flood victims

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Eastern Bank announced a financial relief package worth Tk 3 crore for flood victims under its corporate social responsibility (CSR) programme in response to the devastating flash floods that have severely impacted millions across Bangladesh.

The aid will be directed to the Chief Adviser's Relief and Welfare Fund, which is actively mobilising resources to provide relief to millions of people in dire need of emergency support, the bank said in a press release.

The bank is dedicated to the values of responsible and ethical banking and this commitment extends to CSR initiatives as well.

The decision underscores the pledge to support communities in times of need.

PRICES OF KEY ESSENTIALS IN DHAKA CITY			
	PRICE (AUG 25, 2024)	% CHANGES FROM A MONTH AGO	% CHANGE FROM A YEAR AGO
Fine rice (kg)	Tk 64-Tk 80	4.35 ↑	9.09 ↑
Coarse rice (kg)	Tk 52-Tk 55	2.88 ↑	9.18 ↑
Loose flour (kg)	Tk 40-Tk 45	0	-13.27 ↓
Lentil (kg)	Tk 105-Tk 110	0	10.26 ↑
Soybean (litre)	Tk 145-Tk 152	-1.00 ↓	-5.71 ↓
Potato (kg)	Tk 55-Tk 60	-0.86 ↓	47.44 ↑
Onion (kg)	Tk 110-Tk 120	2.22 ↑	39.39 ↑
Egg (4 pcs)	Tk 50-Tk 52	-0.97 ↓	-0.97 ↓

SOURCE: TCB

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD Road Division, Cumilla E-mail: eeecom@rhd.gov.bd

Memo No. 35.01.1933.410.07.001.24-5479

Date: 25-08-2024

e-Tender Corrigendum Notice No. 02

of

Contract No. e-GP/CRD/ADP/EMRB/WP-02/2023-2024, Tender ID No. 1004890 invited by this Office will be as follows:

SL. No.	Field name	Old value	New value
1.	Document last selling date & time	27/08/2024 16:00	18/09/2024 16:00
2.	Opening date & time	28/08/2024 12:00	19/09/2024 12:30
3.	Last date & time for tender/proposal security submission	27/08/2024 17:00	18/09/2024 17:00
4.	Closing date & time	28/08/2024 12:00	19/09/2024 12:30

This corrigendum will be the part & parcel of the Tender Document. All other terms and conditions of The Tender Document will remain unchanged. The Corrigendum Notice-01 will be the part of the Tender Document. For further information please visit the website: www.eprocure.gov.bd.

Suniti Chakma

ID No. 602147

Executive Engineer, RHD

Road Division, Cumilla

Phone: 01730-782641

GD- 256

BATB's profit

FROM PAGE B4

Subsequently, the EPS for the January-June period of this year stood slightly lower at Tk 17.14 from Tk 17.59 in the same six months of 2023.

The BATB attributed the decrease in EPS to a drop in leaf exports.

Net operating cash flow per share (NOCFPS) was Tk 20.87 in the negative for the first half of 2024, a significant drop from Tk 1.23 in the negative reported in the same period last year.

"Higher excise and tax payments caused the decline in the NOCFPS," said the tobacco product manufacturer.

As of June 30, 2024, the net asset value per share stood at Tk 106.47, up from Tk 99.33 at the end of December 2023. Shares of the BATB edged down 0.02 percent to Tk 409.7 at the DSE yesterday.

Morgan Stanley

FROM PAGE B4

2025, also citing softness in China.

For now, the balance in the oil market is tight, with inventories being drawn down by about 1.2 million barrels per day in the last four weeks, a trend which is expected to continue for the rest of the third quarter, Morgan Stanley said.

"However, with demand set to slow after summer, and both Opec and non-Opec supply to increase from the fourth quarter, we foresee a softening balance, turning to surplus in 2025," it added.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
কমান্ড্যান্ট-এর কার্যালয়
পুলিশ ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, খুলনা

স্মারক নং-পিটিসি/খুল/রেশন দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি/২৫৪৯/ই তারিখঃ ২৫/৮/২০২৪খিঃ

রেশন টেন্ডার বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-০২/২০২৪-২০২৫

পারদিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট এন্ট্রি-২০০৬ এবং সংশোধিত-২০০৯, ২০১৬ এবং বিধিমালা-২০০৮ মোতাবেক পুলিশ ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, খুলনার ২০২৪-২০২৫ অর্থবৎসরে ২য় কোয়ার্টার (অক্টোবর/২০২৪ হতে ডিসেম্বর/২০২৪) রেশন সামগ্রী ক্রয়ের লক্ষ্যে ঠিকাদার নিয়োগের নিমিত্তে আশ্রয়ী প্রকৃত ঠিকাদারগণের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে নিজস্ব প্যাডে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

ক্রঃ নং	রেশন সামগ্রীর নাম	টেডার ডকুমেন্টের মূল্য	টেডার সিকিউরিটি (টাকা)	পরিমাণ	মেয়াদকাল
১	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ				জননিরাপত্তা বিভাগ, সার্বত্র মন্ত্রণালয়।
২	সংস্থা				বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ।
৩	দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারী				পুলিশ ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, খুলনা।
৪	কি কারণে দরপত্র আহ্বান				রেশন সামগ্রী ক্রয়ঃ মত্তর ডাল, সয়াবিন তেল, গম পেছাইকরতঃ আটা সরবরাহ, চিনি এবং পোলাও চাল।
৫	দরপত্রের সূত্র নম্বর ও তারিখ				পুলিশ ট্রেনিং সেন্টার খুলনা এর স্মারক নং-২৫৪৯/ই, তারিখঃ ২৫/৮/২০২৪খিঃ।
৬	ক্রয় পদ্ধতি				OTM
৭	ব্যাঞ্চেট এবং তহবিলের উৎস				রাজস্ব খাতঃ পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার হতে বরাদ্দকৃত অর্থ।
৮	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ				২৭/০৮/২০২৪খিঃ তারিখের মধ্যে।
৯	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়				১০/০৯/২০২৪খিঃ বেলা ১৬.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১০	দরপত্র জমা দেয়ার তারিখ ও সময়				১১/০৯/২০২৪খিঃ ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১১	দরপত্র বন্ধ খোলার তারিখ ও সময়				১১/০৯/২০২৪খিঃ ১২.৩০ ঘটিকায়।
১২	দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও মূল্যায়ন				পিপিএ ও পিপিআর অনুসারে।
১৩	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়কারী দস্তরের নাম ও ঠিকানা				১। পুলিশ ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, খুলনা ২। আর আর এফ, খুলনা ৩। ৩য় এপিবিএন, খুলনা ৪। পুলিশ সুপার, খুলনা।
১৪	দরপত্র সিডিউল গ্রহণকারী দস্তরের নাম ও ঠিকানা				কমান্ড্যান্ট (ডিআইজি), পুলিশ ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, খুলনা এর কার্যালয়।
১৫	দরপত্র সিডিউল খোলার দস্তরের নাম ও ঠিকানা				কমান্ড্যান্ট (ডিআইজি), পুলিশ ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, খুলনা এর কার্যালয়।
১৬	দরপত্র খোলার সময় উপস্থিতি				দরপত্রদাতা/ প্রতিনিধিদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র বন্ধ খোলা হবে।
১৭	দরপত্রদাতা/ব্যবসায়ী/সরবরাহকারীর যোগ্যতাঃ				২য় কোয়ার্টার রেশন সামগ্রী (২০২৪-২০২৫)
	দরপত্র দলিল ক্রয়ের সময় আবেদনকারীকে ১) চলতি অর্থ বছরে হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ২) আয়কর সনদপত্র, ৩) হালনাগাদ ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সার্টিফিকেট, ৪) ০৬ (ছয়) মাসের ব্যাংক লেনদেনের স্টেটমেন্টসহ ধারাবাহিকভাবে আর্থিক স্বচ্ছতার সনদপত্র, ৫) দরপত্রের সহিত ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার (নাম ও পদবীর সিলসহ স্বাক্ষর), ৬) কালো তালিকাভুক্ত নহে মর্মে অগ্রিকারনামা, ৭) সরকারী সংস্থায় মালামাল সরবরাহ কাজের অভিজ্ঞতার সার্টিফিকেট, ৮) সত্যায়িত ছবি, এবং ৯) নাগরিক সনদপত্র। দরপত্রের সহিত উক্ত কাগজপত্রের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি অবশ্যই দাখিল করতে হবে। উল্লেখ্য, কার্যদেশে প্রদানের পূর্বে দরপত্রের সহিত দাখিলকৃত কাগজপত্র সম্পর্কে তদন্ত/সত্যতা যাচাই করা হবে।				
১৮	দরপত্রের বিস্তারিত বিবরণঃ				
১	দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত অন্যান্য তথ্যাবলী সিডিউলে উল্লেখ থাকবে।				
২	উপরে বর্ণিত টেন্ডার সিকিউরিটির টাকা ব্যাংক ড্রাফটসহ টেন্ডার দলিলের সকল শর্তাবলী পূরণ করে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর অনুকূলে দরপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে।				
৩	দরপত্র সিডিউল ক্রয়ের আবেদনের সাথে হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ভ্যাট নিবন্ধনপত্র, আয়কর সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি সংযোজন করতে হবে।				
৪	বাজার দরের চেয়ে অস্বাভাবিক কম বা বেশি দর দাখিল করলে আর্থিক বা সম্পূর্ণ দরপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য হতে পারে।				
৫	কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই যেকোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল কিংবা সকল দরপত্র বাতিলের ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।				

শর্তাবলীঃ

১. দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত অন্যান্য তথ্যাবলী সিডিউলে উল্লেখ থাকবে।

২. উপরে বর্ণিত টেন্ডার সিকিউরিটির টাকা ব্যাংক ড্রাফটসহ টেন্ডার দলিলের সকল শর্তাবলী পূরণ করে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর অনুকূলে দরপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে।

৩. দরপত্র সিডিউল ক্রয়ের আবেদনের সাথে হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ভ্যাট নিবন্ধনপত্র, আয়কর সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি সংযোজন করতে হবে।

৪. বাজার দরের চেয়ে অস্বাভাবিক কম বা বেশি দর দাখিল করলে আর্থিক বা সম্পূর্ণ দরপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য হতে পারে।

৫. কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই যেকোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল কিংবা সকল দরপত্র বাতিলের ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।

হাবিবুর রহমান খান
বিপি নং-৬৮৯৯০২০৮৯৭
ডেপুটি কমান্ড্যান্ট (ডিআইজি) পদে পদোন্নতি প্রাপ্ত
কমান্ড্যান্ট (ভারপ্রাপ্ত)
পুলিশ ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, খুলনা
ফোন নং ০২৪-৯৭৭৩৩২৬১ ফ্যাক্স নং ০২৪-৯৭৭৩৩২৭২
ই-মেইলঃ cmdptckin@police.gov.bd

GD-251

Debapriya may propose 10-member panel to prepare white paper

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

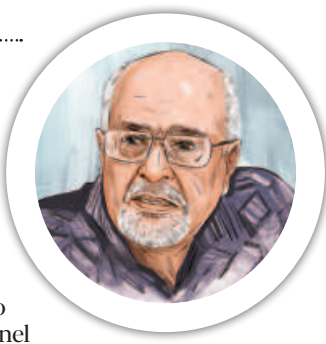
The panel, which will prepare a white paper on the state of the economy, will consider incorporating issues beyond its mandate depending on the situation, said Debapriya Bhattacharya, the panel chief.

He said he is likely to propose a 10-member panel to prepare the white paper which will recommend strategic steps to stabilise the economy, reach the Sustainable Development Goals, and mitigate the challenges after Bangladesh graduates from the least developed country category.

"It is prescriptive, but not mandatory. We will work based on the situation and consultation," he said after a meeting with Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed at the secretariat.

The interim government last week announced its decision to prepare a white paper on the situation of the economy by making Bhattacharya chief of the panel.

The committee headed by Bhattacharya, who is convener of the Citizen's Platform for SDGs and a distinguished fellow of the Centre for Policy Dialogue, will get 90 days to prepare and submit the paper.



The disruption on the highway caused by floods has severely impacted transport of export containers and imported goods as the highway connects the capital to Chattogram port. The photo was taken from Lalpol area of Feni yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

BATB's profit rises 3.7% in Q2

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

British American Tobacco Bangladesh (BATB) posted a profit of Tk 511.92 crore in the second quarter of this year.

This is a 3.71 percent rise from the Tk 493.56 crore it secured in profits in the same period last year.

The tobacco product seller's earnings per share (EPS) for the April-June period of this year stood at Tk 9.48, according to its disclosure on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) website yesterday.

It was Tk 9.14 in the corresponding quarter of 2023. However, in the first half of this year is taken into account, the BATB's profit has dropped 2.5 percent year-on-year.

In other words, it secured a profit of Tk 925.56 crore in the first six months of this year whereas it was Tk 949.86 crore in the same period of the preceding year.

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Hatem new BKMEA president

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Mohammad Hatem has been elected as the president of Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA).

The post had been vacant since former BKMEA president AKM Salim Osman resigned citing health related issues.

The board of directors of the BKMEA accepted Osman's resignation at a meeting at the association's office in Dhaka yesterday, according to a press release.

The BKMEA also elected Fazlee Shamim Ehsan as the new executive president of the association.

Before the assuming new role, Hatem had been serving the BKMEA as the executive president.

The development came nearly three weeks after the students-led mass uprising ousted the Awami League government on August 5.



Transport activities partially resume along Dhaka-Ctg highway

MOHAMMAD SUMAN

Transport activities through the Dhaka-Chattogram highway partially resumed yesterday after a three-day disruption due to flash floods.

The disruption had severely impacted the transport of export containers and imported goods as the highway connects the capital to Chattogram port, which handles around 90 percent of the nation's trade.

Passenger transport was similarly halted because rail lines were also submerged since Thursday due to the flash floods, which were brought on by heavy rainfall and a rush of water from upstream.

Importers, exporters and traders said the economy would not stabilise until the transportation of goods through rail and roadways returns to normal.

They urged the government to quickly repair any damaged sections after the water recedes.

They also demanded initiatives to clear the stockpile of imported goods and facilitate the loading of export goods at Chattogram port.

According to officials of Chattogram port, there are usually 30,000 to 32,000 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) of containers in the port yards.

However, that figure stood at 37,996 TEUs on Saturday, which means more than 71 percent of the port's total capacity of 53,518 TEUs was occupied.

According to official data, about 2,150 TEUs of import and export

containers were dispatched from the port till 5:00pm yesterday compared to 1,647 TEUs on Saturday. About 1,929 TEUs were discharged on Friday while it was 3,590 TEUs on Thursday and 4,130 TEUs on Wednesday.

Md Omar Faruk, secretary of the Chattogram Port Authority, told The Daily Star that the movement

Traders at the Khatunganj wholesale market, a century-old business hub that is home to about 4,000 businesses and more than 5,000 warehouses, said water had not breached their shops or warehouses this time around.

However, they informed that trade was dealt a heavy blow due to the three-day disruption.



of import-export cargo has slowly improved compared to what it was over the past few days.

"And although we still have fewer containers than the capacity, we have already taken some initiatives to reduce the pressure," he said.

For example, port and customs authorities will give importers the opportunity to release their goods through Chattogram port and Pangaon port instead of the Kamalapur ICD, Faruk added.

And although it has stopped raining in some areas since Sunday, trading activities have not returned to normal, they said.

Anis Ahmed, owner of M/S Anis Traders, a wholesaler of onion, garlic and ginger at the Hamidullah Mia Market in Khatunganj, said sales had halved since Thursday.

"This is because most customers are not taking the risk of coming to the market to buy goods," he said.

Bangladesh can learn from Korean experience in farm mechanisation Official says

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Republic of Korea is now enjoying surplus rice production and one of the major factors that enabled the East Asian nation to become self-sufficient in this regard was farm mechanisation.

So, Bangladesh can learn a lot from the Korean experience, especially in the use of agricultural machinery, said Sang Moon Byun, director of the foodgrain policy division at the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (MAFRA) of Korea.

Byun made these comments in an interview in mid-July during a two-day visit to Dhaka to hand over rice to the local office of the World Food Programme (WFP).

Last month, Korea provided 15,000 tonnes of rice to the WFP, which is an organisation within the United Nations.

The donation was used to provide food assistance and nutrition support to Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char.

According to the WFP, 15,000 tonnes of rice is sufficient to feed around one million refugees for 1.5 months.

Informing that Korea attained self-sufficiency in rice production in the late 1970s, Byun added that MAFRA has institutions dedicated to researching agricultural technology.

So, governments of developing countries may have something to learn from the East Asian nation.



"Also, we can go for technical cooperation," he said, adding that if the government of Bangladesh expresses an interest in cooperating to adopt agricultural technology, then ministry would support the initiative through the local embassy.

He pointed out that rice cultivation in Korea is fully mechanised from the tilling stage to harvesting and emphasised that land use for agriculture must be organised, not scattered.

"Another thing to consider is the irrigation system. If you want to mechanise agriculture, some basic things must be done first," he added.

Furthermore, the government needs to play a leading role in farm mechanisation because the private sector cannot do it alone, he said.

"So, it should be a joint initiative between them," he added.

Byun said another consideration would be ensuring the sustainability of such initiatives by training farmers in the use of modern machinery. Most commercial farmers in Korea operated on a small scale in the past as they did not have the funds to purchase agricultural machinery. So, the Korean government helped the farmers purchase machinery, thereby facilitating farm mechanisation.

In a bid to boost its efforts, the Korean government requested farmers to grow only one crop, such as rice. By doing so, Korea was able to invest in productivity.

However, Byun said the Korean government did not necessarily restrict the farmers' freedom in choosing what they should cultivate. Instead, they were given examples of crops that were more suitable for the land. In that regard, rice ensured maximum productivity.

"But as we now have surplus rice, the government is recommending farmers plant beans instead," he added.

Byun also informed that the Korean government was focusing on the research and development of new rice varieties and agricultural technology.

"Another priority is investing in infrastructure that will help the country adapt to climate change," he said.

Morgan Stanley cuts oil demand growth outlook

REUTERS

Morgan Stanley has lowered its global oil demand forecast for 2024, mainly due to China's slower economic growth, increased electric vehicle usage there, and a rise in the number of trucks in China powered by liquefied natural gas (LNG).

The bank cut its global oil demand growth forecast for this year to 1.1 million barrels per day (mbpd) from 1.2 mbpd.

It also lowered its Brent price forecasts modestly and sees prices averaging \$80 per barrel in the fourth quarter of 2024 compared to \$85 per barrel previously.

Brent crude was trading around \$78 a barrel by 12:21 GMT on Friday, and US West Texas Intermediate crude futures were at \$74.52. The shift to LNG trucks has cut China's oil demand growth by 100-150 thousand barrels per day (kbd), while gasoline displacement by EVs has reduced it by about 100 kbd, Morgan Stanley analysts said in a note dated Aug. 22.

Additionally, growth in petrochemical capacity expansion - which boosts LPG, ethane, and naphtha consumption - has slowed due to low petrochemical margins, the note said. The note chimes with last week's cut by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) in its oil demand growth forecast for this year and

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ANN/THE STRAITS TIMES

China approved the building of nine gigawatts (GW) of coal power generation in the first half of 2024, down by more than 80 per cent compared with a year earlier as the nation adds renewable energy capacity in record amounts, according to a study published on Aug 22.

China is the world's top renewable energy investor and has been adding ever-growing amounts of wind and solar capacity.

It added 134.5GW of renewable energy capacity in the first six months of 2024, a 25 per cent year-on-year increase, according to Australian think-tank Climate Energy Finance and China's National Bureau of Statistics. Wind and solar comprised 128GW of this total.

In 2023, China accounted for more than half of the world's new wind and solar installations.

And as at end-June 2024, China's installed solar power capacity totalled 714GW, accounting for 23 per cent of the nation's total installed power generation capacity, compared with about 200GW of solar capacity for the United States.

"The steep drop in new coal plant permits is a hopeful sign that China's massive solar and wind builds are dampening its coal ambitions," said the report's co-author

Christine Shearer, research analyst at Global Energy Monitor (GEM), which tracks fossil fuel and renewable energy projects worldwide.

GEM and the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (Crea), a research organisation registered in Finland and has offices across

Asia and Europe, conducted the study.

China's energy investment trends are closely watched because the nation is the world's largest source of greenhouse gas emissions heating up the planet. The world cannot win the battle against climate change

without China slashing fossil fuel use and emissions.

And analysts are looking for signs that emissions have peaked in the world's second-largest economy and top coal consumer and producer. Burning coal is the biggest global source of carbon dioxide (CO2) and China has the world's largest fleet of coal power plants.

China's coal power generation fell by 7 per cent from June 2023 to June 2024. "If renewables continue to cut into coal generation, then a peak in China's CO2 emissions - pledged to happen before 2030 - is on the horizon, if not already here," says the report.

Yet, China is still building coal power plants.

While the issuing of permits for new coal plants has plunged, construction began on more than 41GW of coal projects in the first half of 2024, or more than 90 per cent of new coal construction activities globally, according to the study. For the same period the previous year, construction starts totalled 37GW.

This follows the surge in coal power permits in the country, exceeding 100GW annually in 2022 and 2023, leading to growing concerns about overcapacity in the coal power sector.

But the large additions of green energy are meeting China's growing electricity needs. So why is it still building new coal power plants?

China coal plant approvals plunge as green power grows: study



An aerial view shows residential buildings with roof-mounted photovoltaic solar panels in Yinchuan, in northwestern China's Ningxia region. In 2023, China accounted for more than half of the world's new wind and solar installations.

PHOTO: AFP/FILE