

Trade deficit narrows in Jul-Aug

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh's trade deficit narrowed by \$290 million, or around 10 percent, in the first two months of the current fiscal year compared to the same period of the previous fiscal year.

During the July-August period of FY25, the trade deficit was \$2.75 billion, according to the latest data from the central bank.

It was \$3.04 billion in the same period of FY24.

The narrowing of the trade deficit was attributed to a rise in export earnings coupled with a decline in import expenditure.

Export earnings increased by 2.5 percent year-on-year to \$7.16 billion in the two months of this fiscal year.

Import costs fell 1.2 percent year-on-year to \$9.91 billion.

Another significant development in the balance of payments came about in the country's current account, which is now in the positive, supported by increased remittance inflows over the last two months.

The balance of payments summarises the economic transactions of an economy with the rest of the world.

Stocks rebound from three-day fall

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Major indices of the stock market in Bangladesh saw a big rebound yesterday, snapping a three-day losing streak thanks to the rise in share values of some prominent companies, most of which are financially sound.

The shares of British American Tobacco (BAT) Bangladesh, BRAC Bank, Grameenphone, Square Pharmaceuticals, City Bank, Beximco Pharmaceuticals, LafargeHolcim Bangladesh, Khan Brothers PP Woven Bag Industries, Islami Bank Bangladesh and Beacon Pharmaceuticals drew investors the most.

BAT Bangladesh and BRAC Bank showcased double-digit growth of 11.18 percent and 10.11 percent respectively.

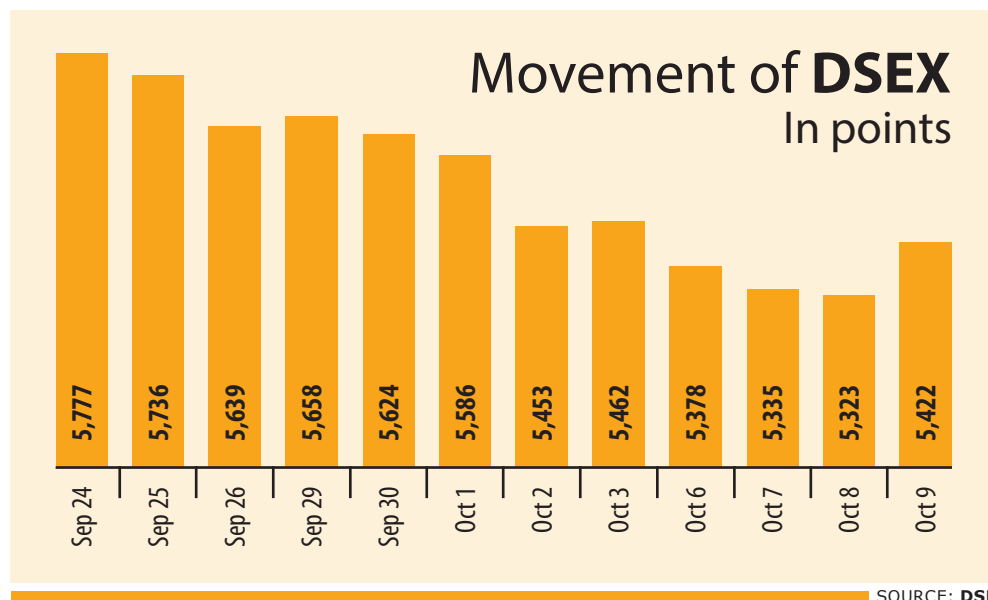
As a result, the DSEX, the broad index of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), edged up by 98.84 points, or 1.86 percent, from the previous day to close at 5,422 points.

The DSES, which is an index that represents Shariah-based companies, soared by 18.12 points, or 1.53 percent, to 1,205 points.

In the blue chip segment, the DS30 index went up by 45.78 points, or 2.36 percent, to 1,984 points. At Chittagong Stock Exchange, the CASPI, the key index of the port city bourse, added 173.61 points, or 1.16 percent, to settle at 15,135 points.

Bangladesh Submarine Cables, Southeast Bank, ADN Telecom, Apex Tannery, Bangladesh Steel Re-rolling Mills, Libra Infusions, Takaful Islami Insurance, Reckitt Benckiser Bangladesh, Renwick Jaineswar and Company, and Delta Spinners suffered losses, according to LankaBangla Financial Portal.

Of the issues that changed hands at the country's premier bourse, 327 saw a rise in



prices, 37 closed lower and the remaining 32 did not witness any price fluctuations.

The DSE's daily turnover, which measures the total value of shares traded, increased by 5.97 percent to Tk 376 crore.

Block trades, meaning high-volume securities transactions that are privately negotiated and executed outside of the open market, contributed 7.7 percent of the overall market turnover.

Agni Systems emerged as the most traded share with a turnover of Tk 31.6 crore.

All large-cap sectors, meaning those that account for large amounts in market capitalisation, posted a positive performance, according to BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage.

Market capitalisation refers to the value of

a company's outstanding shares.

The non-bank financial institutions sector saw the highest gain of 7.12 percent followed by food and allied (3.76 percent), telecommunication (2.49 percent), fuel and power (2.10 percent), banking (1.69 percent), engineering (1.46 percent), and pharmaceuticals (1.19 percent).

As for the overall situation involving individual companies, the Investment Corporation of Bangladesh topped the gainers' list with a rise of 10 percent.

It was followed by BDCOM Online (9.91 percent), Northern Islami Insurance (9.68 percent), Agni Systems (9.57 percent), Crystal Insurance Company (9.53 percent), and Aamra Technologies (9.52 percent).

Advisory panel formed to overhaul NBR

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The interim government has formed a five-member advisory committee to initiate positive reforms at the National Board of Revenue (NBR).

The committee will provide recommendations on tax policy reforms, improvements in tax administration, automation and other related matters, the NBR said in a gazette yesterday.

The committee includes two former NBR chairmen: Muhammad Abdul Mazid and Nasiruddin Ahmed.

The other members are Delwar Hossain, Aminur Rahman, and Farid Uddin, all former members of the taxes and customs divisions.

India leaves interest rates unchanged

AFP, Mumbai

India's central bank held interest rates steady on Wednesday but left the door open for future cuts, as growth moderates in the world's fifth largest economy.

The Reserve Bank of India said the benchmark repo rate – the short-term interest paid by the central bank on loans from commercial lenders – will stay unchanged at 6.50 percent for the tenth meeting in a row.

Central bank governor Shaktikanta Das said the bank would remain "unambiguously focused" on aligning inflation with its target while still supporting growth.

"It is with a lot of effort that the inflation horse has been brought to the stable," he said.

"We have to be very careful about opening the gate as the horse may simply bolt again."



Prof Md Abul Hossain, vice-chancellor of Gono Bishwabidyalay, and Mohammad Mamdudur Rashid, managing director and CEO of United Commercial Bank PLC, pose for photographs after signing a memorandum of understanding at the bank's corporate office in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: UNITED COMMERCIAL BANK

UCB signs banking service deal with Gono Bishwabidyalay

STAR BUSINESS DESK

United Commercial Bank (UCB) PLC yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Gono Bishwabidyalay to provide the university with a range of banking services, including tuition fee collection and other facilities.

Mohammad Mamdudur Rashid, managing director and CEO of the bank,

and Prof Md Abul Hossain, vice-chancellor of Gono Bishwabidyalay, penned the MoU at the bank's corporate office in Dhaka, according to a press release.

Nabil Mustafizur Rahman and ATM Tahmiduzzaman, additional managing directors of UCB, and Md Sekander-E-Azam, senior executive vice-president and head of transaction banking, were present.

Mutual Trust Bank, Manu Farms ink deal on financing for poultry farmers

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Mutual Trust Bank PLC yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Manu Farms to provide financial support to poultry farmers registered on the "Poultry Manager" app platform.

Md Khalid Mahmood Khan, additional managing director and chief business officer of the bank, and Muhammad Shahin, founder and CEO of Manu Farms, penned the MoU at the bank's corporate head office in Dhaka. Syed Mahbubur Rahman, managing director and CEO of the bank, attended the signing ceremony, said a press release.

Under the terms of the MoU, the bank will provide financial services to Manu Farms listed poultry farmers.

This collaboration aims to bridge between farmers and investors by offering innovative and deeply embedded financing solutions in agriculture. Usman Rashid Mueen, deputy managing director and head of credit risk management of the bank, Khalid Hossain, head of digital banking division, and Sanjib Kumar Dey, head of SME and agri banking division, were also present.



Md Khalid Mahmood Khan, additional managing director and chief business officer of Mutual Trust Bank PLC, and Muhammad Shahin, founder and CEO of Manu Farms, pose for photographs after signing a memorandum of understanding at the bank's corporate head office in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: MUTUAL TRUST BANK

Bangladesh's rice

FROM PAGE B1

Imports of wheat, the second most consumed cereal grain after rice, soared 71 percent year-on-year to 66 lakh tonnes in FY24.

M Asaduzzaman, a professorial fellow at the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies expressed doubt over the rice production estimate.

He questioned why prices have gone up if supply was indeed adequate.

"Production has not risen as much as reported. Higher prices mean there is a supply shortage," he said, adding that rice accounts for a good portion of food inflation, which was high in the previous fiscal.

The BBS said food inflation rose to 10.65 percent in FY24 from 8.71 percent the year prior.

The price of rice coarse rice, the cheapest variety, was 7 percent higher year-on-year at Tk 50 to Tk 55 per kilogramme in Dhaka yesterday.

Asaduzzaman informed that recurrent floods this year have raised concerns over the cultivation of Aman.

"We will have to import rice if Aman production suffers. And that will be clear at the beginning of November. So, the government should take a decision regarding imports next month," he said.

By the end of August, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) said Aus and Aman rice acreage and production in

Bangladesh might decline because of the floods, particularly the devastating deluge in the eastern part of the country.

Estimates by the Department of Agricultural Extension show that Aman acreage declined to 57.35 lakh hectares this season from 35.5 lakh hectares previously.

Agricultural economist Alam said the overall Aman rice output may be 1.55 crore tonnes to 1.60 crore tonnes this year.

"Farmers had to transplant the seedlings late because of floods. This may cause lower yields," he said while adding that imports might not be needed as stocks of the grains are favourable.

"But the next Boro rice crop is crucial," he said. "We will not need to worry about food security of the staple grain if we can ensure production inputs, mainly fertiliser, at the doorsteps of farmers."

Kabir said the ongoing flood in the Sherpur-Netrokona districts will damage the Aman crop in the fields and it cannot be recovered.

"So, whether we will need to import or not will depend on the next Aman harvest. And the output of the upcoming Boro would depend largely on the management of fertiliser by the government."

The interim government has to ensure proper management of fertiliser to ensure a good harvest of Boro rice," he added.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
District: Narail
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.02.6500.000.07.001.20-1626 Date: 08-10-2024

e-GP Tender Notice-05/2024-2025

e-GP tender is invited in the National e-GP System (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of works mentioned below under LGED, District: Narail.

SL No.	Tender ID	Package No.	Name of work	Tender last selling date & time	Tender closing date & time
1	1017768 (OTM)	NRIDP/Narail/W3-B.16	1. Construction of Charnalidanga Alukdiha Eidgah Road from Ch. 00-1500m by BC (Road ID-265765097) (Salvage cost Tk 42,72,594.00) 2. Construction of Dhunda-Shahabad Road from Ch. 00-1300m by BC (Road ID-265765029) (Salvage cost Tk 43,38,193.00) 3. Construction of Saraspur Mosque-Shahabad Madrasha Road from Ch. 00-850m by BC (Road ID-265765017) (Salvage cost Tk 7,29,968.00) under Sadar Upazila, Dist: Narail.	12-11-2024 17:00	13-11-2024 15:00
2	1017767 (OTM)	NRIDP/Narail/W3-B.15	1. Construction of Kashipur Dhopadah Omair house Pucca-Bahirpara GPS Road from Ch. 00-1500m by BC (Road ID-265525426) (Salvage cost Tk 1,82,865.00) 2. Construction of Gella Tolla-Bosupoti Road from Ch. 00-1810m by BC (Road ID-265525093) (Salvage cost Tk 12,38,801.00) under Lohagara Upazila, Dist: Narail.	12-11-2024 17:00	13-11-2024 15:00
3	1017765 (OTM)	NRIDP/Narail/W3-B.13	1. Construction of Nowagram Arpara Sultan Mia house-Kawli Danga Road from Ch. 00-985m by BC (Road ID-265525337) (Salvage cost Tk 27,23,894.00) 2. Construction of Nowagram Arpara Madrasha-Dodari Road from Ch. 00-2100m by BC (Road ID-265525333) (Salvage cost Tk 3,65,761.00) under Lohagara Upazila, Dist: Narail.	12-11-2024 17:00	13-11-2024 15:00

Biswajit Kumer Kundu
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GD-668

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Tel: 02-23356514, 02-55110075
E-Mail: it.pscm@janatabank-bd.com
Website: www.janatabank-bd.com; http://www.ib.com.bd/

INVITATION FOR ENLISTMENT (IFE)

Sealed Applications are invited under the provisions of the Public Procurement Rules-2008 for Category Wise Enlistment of Potential and Qualified Tenderers for Procuring IT related Goods & Related Services under the terms and conditions outlined below and detailed in the Application Form:

1. Procuring Entity Name	IT Procurement, Security, Compliance & Maintenance Department, Janata Bank PLC., Head Office (20 th Floor), 110 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000.	
2. Invitation for Enlistment (New & Renewal)	JBPLC/IT PSCM/Enlistment/2025	
3. Invitation Ref No	JBPLC/IT PSCM/Enlistment/2025	
4. Issued Date	09-10-2024	
KEY INFORMATION		
5. Procurement Method	Limited Tendering Method (LTM)	
6. Categories (Any Applicant can apply for any or all of the categories by procuring and submitting separate Application Form with related supporting documents)	Category-1: (Server, Workstation, Monitor, Laptop, Projector, Computer related accessories and Software, Printer, Scanner, MICR Cheque Scanner and related accessories) Category-2: (Online UPS, Line Interactive UPS, Automated Voltage Stabilizer and related accessories) Category-3: (Network Device, Connectivity Establishment and Network related accessories)	
7. Period for Enlistment	Valid until 31-12-2025	
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
8. Application Form Selling Last Date and Time	Date: 23-10-2024	Time: 04:00 PM
9. Application Closing Date and Time	Date: 24-10-2024	Time: 04:00 PM [Late submission will not be entertained.]
10. Name & Address of the Office(s):	Application Form Availability: IT Procurement, Security, Compliance & Maintenance Department, Janata Bank PLC., Head Office (20 th Floor), 110 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 from 10:00AM to 4:00PM on all working days. Receiving Application Form: from 10:00AM to 4:00PM on all working days.	
INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT		
1. Eligibility of Applicant		
1. Must be a Manufacturer/Distributor/Dealer/Partner/Reseller of a reputed Brand Item.		
2. Must have updated Trade License.		
3. Must have TIN and updated Tax Payment Certificate		
4. Must have updated (After IFE Publication) Bank Solvency Certificate.		
5. Must have VAT Registration Certificate/BIN Certificate.		
6. Must have minimum 05 (five) years of overall business experience and at least 03 (three) years specific experience of the similar nature of goods. Work Completion Certificate along with NOA/Purchase Order need to be submitted. [Bank may verify their documents and any negative response from any Procuring Entity, the application will be rejected]		
7. Must have sufficient qualified technical personnel at least 6 for Category-1 and at least 4 for Category-2 & Category-3. Signed Bio-data of each personnel must be submitted along with last academic certificate & recent photograph.		
8. Must have strong presence of minimum 02(two) support offices with equipment's/goods including 01(one) support office outside of Dhaka.		
9. ISO/BSTI certificate of the products and/or of the company.		
Special Instructions:		
1. If the applicant fails to submit any of the above (Serial 11-11.9) required documentary evidences, their application shall be treated as Non-Responsive.		
2. If any applicant submits any false/incorrect information or forged certificate/document, the application shall be rejected. Incomplete applications will be rejected.		
12. Price of Application Form (Tk)	TK. 500.00 (Five Hundred) only (Non-Refundable) for each Category payable in the form of Pay Order favoring "Janata Bank PLC."	
13. Enlistment Fees (Tk)	TK. 5000.00 (Five Thousand) for new applicant for each category in the form of Pay-Order favoring "Janata Bank PLC."	
14. Enlistment Renewal Fees (Tk)	TK. 2000.00 (Two Thousand) for renewal applicant for each category in the form of Pay-Order favoring "Janata Bank PLC."	
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
15. Name of Official Inviting Application	Mohammad Shakawat Hossain	
16. Designation of Official Inviting Application	Deputy General Manager	
17. Address of Official Inviting Application	IT Procurement, Security, Compliance & Maintenance Department, Janata Bank PLC., Head Office (20 th Floor), 110 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000	
18. Contact details of Official Inviting Application	Tel: 02-22338334 Email: it.pscm@janatabank-bd.com	
SPECIAL INSTRUCTION		
a) The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept/reject any/all Applications.		
b) If any "Force Majeure" situation arises in the specified date mentioned in the Application Form or/and Invitation For Enlistment, the event will take place on the next working date.		
c) All Applicants (New & Renewal) must submit the Application Form of Enlistment (AFE) duly filled in, Fees and related documents.		

GD-669

Sd/
(Mohammad Shakawat Hossain)
Deputy General Manager
IT PSC&M Department