

# Star BUSINESS



Social Islami Bank fires 579 officers appointed by S Alam

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Crisis-hit Social Islami Bank has terminated 579 probationary officers who were allegedly appointed illegally by Chattogram-based conglomerate S Alam group.

The human resource department of the Shariah-based lender sent letters to the 579 officers on Thursday, informing them that their services were being terminated with immediate effect.

The bank's board was previously dominated by the industrial conglomerate S Alam Group, which was close to the Awami League.

After the political changeover on August 5, the bank's board was reconstituted, ousting S Alam's men from the boardroom.

Bank officials READ MORE ON B3

## Tk 3,000cr export fund held up in four troubled banks

### FUND STUCK WITH FOUR CRISIS-HIT BANKS

Bank	Amount (In crore taka)
Islami Bank Bangladesh	2,000
Social Islami Bank	600
First Security Islami Bank	400
Union Bank	35

SOURCE: BANGLADESH BANK

### EXPORT FACILITATION PRE-FINANCE FUND

Size Tk 10,000cr	Tk 7,900cr disbursed to banks	The fund supplements EDF
Introduced in January 2023	BB recovered Tk 3,200cr so far	



US Secret Service to train locals on anti-money laundering

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The United States Secret Service, a federal law enforcement agency headquartered in Washington DC, will train officials of six agencies of Bangladesh to increase their capacity to tackle money laundering and terrorism financing.

Around 60 officials of the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU), four units of Bangladesh Police, including the Criminal Investigation Department, as well as the National Board of Revenue (NBR), the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), the Department of Narcotics Control, and Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) will receive training in two phases.

Twenty officials of the BFIU will take part in the training, an official of the financial intelligence unit told The Daily Star.

A delegation of the American Secret Service will come to Bangladesh to conduct the training.

In the first phase, a five- READ MORE ON B3

MD MEHEDI HASAN

A large chunk of a Tk 10,000 crore central bank fund, meant for financing raw material imports for export orders, remains stuck with four crisis-hit banks, according to Bangladesh Bank officials.

This has made it difficult for sound banks to get adequate liquidity from the Export Facilitation Pre-Finance Fund (EFPF) to lend to local exporters for raw material purchases from foreign markets.

The four banks are Islami Bank Bangladesh, Social Islami Bank, First Security Islami Bank and Union Bank -- the boards of which were previously dominated by the Chattogram-based industrial conglomerate S Alam Group.

Following the political changeover on August 5, the banks saw their boards reconstituted, ousting S Alam's men from the boardroom.

Still, the banks have struggled to repay the Bangladesh Bank Tk 3,035 crore, due mainly to their severe liquidity crisis. Therefore, the central bank has been extending the repayment deadline.

Of the total amount, Tk 2,000 crore is owed by Islami Bank Bangladesh, Tk 600 crore by Social Islami Bank, Tk 400 crore by First Security Islami Bank and Tk 35 crore by Union Bank.

In January last year, the Bangladesh Bank formed the Tk 10,000 crore EFPF to support industries facing raw material import challenges due to a foreign currency crisis.

Since the fund's formation, the central bank disbursed Tk 7,900 crore to banks, and has so far recovered Tk 3,200 crore in principal, according to central bank officials.

The officials said several other banks such as NCC Bank, Janata Bank, Global Islami Bank, Premier Bank, Prime Bank, Mercantile Bank, Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Bank Asia and Eastern Bank continue to utilise the pre-finance fund.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, a senior central bank official told The Daily Star that the banking regulator usually

with them," said the official.

Except for Islami Bank Bangladesh, the commercial lenders are now struggling even to repay their depositors.

Central bank officials expressed optimism that Islami Bank Bangladesh would be able to repay the fund by December of this year, as its negative current account balance continues to decrease.

The Daily Star attempted to contact Islami Bank Bangladesh Chairman Obayed Ullah Al Masud and Managing Director Mohammed Monirul Moula by phone, but neither responded to

A senior Social Islami Bank official said they are now repaying depositors for emergency purposes by utilising the liquidity support.

Union Bank's new Chairman Md Farid Uddin Ahmad could not be reached for comment.

In January of 2023, the central bank introduced the EFPF for exporters, coinciding with the phasing out of the Export Development Fund (EDF) as per prescriptions of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

As of now, the EDF stands at around \$2 billion, trimmed down from \$7 billion in December 2022.

Members of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), Bangladesh Textile Mills Association, BKMEA and B and C type industries in export processing zones (EPZs) are eligible for financing from the EFPF.

An exporter can get a maximum loan of Tk 200 crore from the fund, which must be used for raw material imports. Banks are required to pay back the fund within six months, although they may extend or reduce the repayment period for their clients.

According to the scheme guidelines, clients with overdue export bills are not eligible for new funds from the scheme.

Besides, clients already receiving loans from other central bank funds for raw material imports are not allowed to get loans from the EFPF. Central bank officials said loan defaulters are also barred from accessing the EFPF.



deducts the fund from lenders' current accounts upon the expiration of the repayment term. As per the rules, every lender has to maintain a current account with the central bank.

But the current accounts of the four banks with the central bank remained negative for a long time due to the liquidity crisis. As a result, the central bank was unable to deduct the fund, the official added.

"New fund disbursement to the lenders has been suspended as a large portion is already stuck

the calls as of yesterday noon.

The crisis-hit banks are currently repaying depositors on a limited scale by securing liquidity support from the inter-bank money market and through central bank-issued guarantees.

Mohammad Abdul Mannan, the new chairman of First Security Islami Bank, recently told the newspaper that normal banking activities were resuming and they were working to repay depositors with the liquidity support.

Completely lift import duty on onion: BTTC

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

In the face of rising prices of onions, the Bangladesh Trade and Tariff Commission (BTTC) has recommended that the government allow zero-duty entry of the kitchen staple to cut import costs and stabilise domestic prices.

Prices of the bulb surged to as high as Tk 150 per kilogramme earlier this week amid reduced supply of locally grown onions as the new cultivation season is about to begin.

The BTTC said the period between October 15 and January 15 is typically a lean season for locally grown onions. Early varieties usually start arriving in the market during this time.

"However, heavy rainfall this year has adversely affected the cultivation of the early varieties. This could be considered as a reason for reduced supply of domestic harvests and the price spikes," said the BTTC in a report submitted to the commerce ministry and the National Board of Revenue (NBR).

Locally produced onion prices increased by 14 percent to Tk 130-Tk 150 per kilogramme in Dhaka over the past week, according to retail data compiled by the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB).

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## Financial inclusion among garment workers low: Experts

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Poor financial and digital literacy among garment workers in Bangladesh coupled with a lack of supportive policies and related data are the main barriers for improving financial inclusion for this segment, according to experts.

Besides, the absence of formal employment contracts and prevalence of informal payment channels for garment workers are the other roadblocks to improving their financial inclusion.

These comments came at a roundtable, styled "Improving Financial Health of RMG Workers in Bangladesh: Policy Frameworks and Future Pathways" at The Daily Star Centre in Dhaka yesterday.

The event was jointly organised by The Daily Star and Sarathi, a project of Swisscontact Bangladesh that works for improving the financial health of local garment workers, at The Daily Star Centre in Dhaka yesterday.

Sajid Amit, director of the Center for Enterprise and Society (CES) at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB), said financial inclusion



Experts attend a roundtable styled "Improving Financial Health of RMG Workers in Bangladesh: Policy Frameworks and Future Pathways" at The Daily Star Centre in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

among garment workers has yet to reach its full potential.

In his presentation, titled "Stitching Financial Health for a Resilient Future: Policy Brief on Improving Financial Health of RMG Workers in Bangladesh", he informed that 70 percent of garment workers use mobile financial services (MFS).

However, challenges persist in

improving their financial inclusion through MFS as only 30 percent of the workers own smartphones and have access to the internet.

Meanwhile, it was found that 45 percent of them have security concerns about digital transactions.

Amit also informed that while nano loans and earned wage access solutions have gained popularity

among garment workers, their limited smartphone ownership, low credit score and other hurdles are preventing them from availing these facilities.

Moreover, garment workers are largely unable to visit bank branches during operating hours due to demanding factory schedules, which is why their banking activities are typically limited to fund withdrawals, deposits or transfers, he added.

During the presentation, the speakers said that access to loans is one of the main draws for financial inclusion as people often turn to external financing for large expenses.

However, most female garment workers face communication barriers that make it difficult for them to understand the products being offered. Also, the absence of formal employment contracts means that it is nearly impossible for garment workers to secure bank loans.

Against this backdrop, Md Arfan Ali, chairman of Zaytoon Business Solutions, said bank policies in this regard are not aligned with the interests of marginalised people.

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Islami Bank sees first loss in decades amid high provision

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Islami Bank Bangladesh PLC incurred a loss of Tk 89 crore in the third quarter of 2024, a first in the past couple of decades, due mainly to the necessity of retaining high provisioning against classified loans.

The country's first Shariah-based bank had logged a profit of Tk 94 crore in the same period of the previous year.

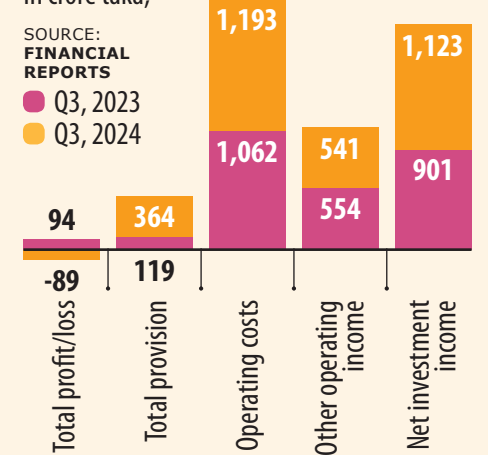
The loss per share this time around stood at Tk 0.55 whereas in the third quarter of 2023 it was Tk 0.59 in earnings per share.

"The earnings per share of the company dropped due to an increase in total provision against investments compared to the previous period," the company said.

The bank's provisioning rose 205 percent year-on-year to Tk 364 crore in the July-September period of the current year.

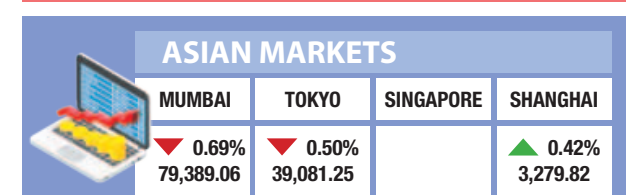
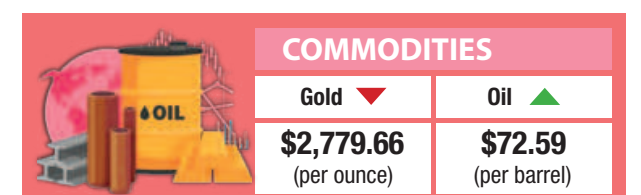
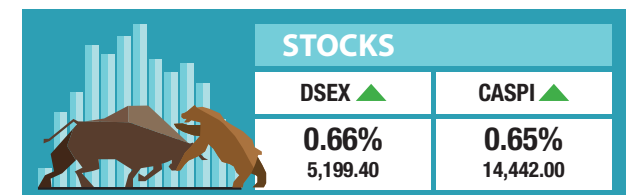
### MAJOR FINANCIAL INDICATORS OF ISLAMI BANK

In crore taka;



Once well-run and profitable, the bank's financial health took a turn for the worse after S Alam Group Chairman Mohammad Saiful Alam took over the board by exerting his political influence and creating a narrative that the bank was involved in financing terrorists.

However, none could prove that the bank did READ MORE ON B3



BB removes interest rate cap on RFCD accounts

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Bangladesh Bank (BB) yesterday removed the cap on interest rates for Resident Foreign Currency Deposit (RFCD) accounts, allowing banks to set their own rates.

RFCDs are savings accounts that Bangladeshi residents can open and maintain with foreign currency brought in from travel abroad.

Previously, banks were required to pay an additional 1.5 percent interest on deposits in these accounts, based on the international benchmark Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR).

With the current SOFR at 5.3 percent, banks have been paying 6.8 percent interest on RFCD accounts.

Now, banks will have the flexibility to determine their own interest rates or profit margins on these accounts, according to the

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# InterContinental Dhaka becomes hospitality partner of MEDEXPO-2024

STAR BUSINESS DESK

InterContinental Dhaka recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Triune Group to become the hospitality partner of the 10th healthcare and medical equipment exhibition, styled "MEDEXPO-2024".

Triune Group will organise the three-day exhibition to be held at the Ruposhi Bangla Grand Ball Room of InterContinental Dhaka from November 6.

Entry to the exhibition will be open for all from 10am to 8pm every day.

Ashwani Nayar, general manager of the hotel, and Kazi Wahidul Alam, managing director of Triune Group, penned the MoU at the former's office in the capital, said a press release.

National Professor AK Azad Khan, chairman of the Health Sector Reform Commission of the Interim Government and president of the Diabetic Association



PHOTO: TRIUNE GROUP

**Ashwani Nayar, general manager of the InterContinental Dhaka, and Kazi Wahidul Alam, managing director of Triune Group, pose for photographs while signing a memorandum of understanding at the former's office in the capital recently.**

of Bangladesh, is expected to formally inaugurate the exhibition as chief guest.

This year, it is expected to be

participated by leading hospitals and healthcare service providers from India, Thailand and hosts Bangladesh.

Besides, renowned hospital, diagnostic and medical equipment manufacturers and suppliers will showcase their latest state-of-the-art products during the exhibition.

Speaking on the occasion, Nayar appreciated Triune Group's initiative of organising such an exhibition to showcase the advancements in the healthcare and medical science and technology sectors.

He said that this would greatly benefit medical professionals, health sector entrepreneurs and healthcare service seekers in the country.

Alam welcomed InterContinental Dhaka for joining hands in organising the event as the Hospitality Partner and informed that MEDEXPO will provide a platform for direct interactions among various stakeholders of the healthcare and medical sectors.

He hoped that both the sellers and buyers of various medical equipment, products, and healthcare services would be benefitted from the exhibition.

# MA Jabbar elected new president of Bezia

STAR BUSINESS DESK

MA Jabbar, managing director of DBL Group, has been elected as the president of the Bangladesh Economic Zones Investors' Association (Bezia).

Jabbar is the adviser to the Bangladesh Ceramic Manufacturers and Exporters Association, and convener of the Bangladesh Semiconductor Industries Association.

He is a board member of Global Compact Network Bangladesh, trustee board member of CSR Center Bangladesh, represents DBL in the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Bangladesh and advisory committee member of the British International Investment, said a press release.

Passionate about corporate social responsibility and sustainability, Jabbar is highly aware of and compliant to the changing flows in global markets. He has been instrumental in developing a good reputation and continued successes for DBL Group.

His dynamic leadership brought growth opportunities for the company, resulting in the evolution of more diversified industries for the group.

In a span of three decades, the group has grown into a diversified conglomerate of apparels, textiles, ceramic tiles, pharmaceuticals, sewing thread, dyed fibre and yarn, accessories, dredging, infrastructure, telecom, VLSI, information technology, digital solutions and retail industries.

DBL had an annual turnover of \$1 billion for the year 2023-24 and employs more than 47,000 people.

Through a wide range of programmes aimed at the improvement of the lives of workers and local communities and reducing the impact on the environment, Jabbar regularly engages with a broad range of stakeholders, including UN agencies, development financial institutions, development organisations and fashion retail brands.

He is a graduate in computer science from the University of Texas in Dallas, the US.



# United Commercial Bank launches 'CyberSource' for businesses

STAR BUSINESS DESK

United Commercial Bank (UCB) PLC signed an agreement with Visa to launch a payment gateway solution, styled "CyberSource", aimed at enhancing payment management for businesses and merchants.

Mohammad Mamdudur Rashid, managing director and CEO of the bank, and Sabbir Ahmed, country manager for Bangladesh at Visa, penned the deal at the former's corporate office in Dhaka recently, the bank said in a press release.

Expressing optimism, Rashid said, "We believe our customers deserve the best, and CyberSource, our VISA payment gateway,

reflects our commitment to providing top-quality payment solutions."

"We are confident that this platform will enhance our overall operational efficiency, helping businesses succeed in the digital economy," he added.

This advanced solution offers secure, efficient and scalable payment processing tailored to diverse client needs.

Md Abdullah Al Mamoon, deputy managing director and chief operating officer of the bank, and Golam Yeazdani, head of digital banking and transformation, along with other senior officials from both organisations were present.



PHOTO: UNITED COMMERCIAL BANK

**Mohammad Mamdudur Rashid, managing director and CEO of United Commercial Bank PLC, and Sabbir Ahmed, country manager for Bangladesh at Visa, pose for photographs after signing an agreement on a payment gateway solution at the bank's corporate office in Dhaka recently.**



## 29th Dhaka International Trade Fair (DITF)-2025

Export Promotion Bureau, Dhaka  
TCB Bhaban, 1, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215

www.epb.gov.bd /E-mail: ditf@epb.gov.bd /Facebook: www.facebook.com/epb.gov.bd



File No. 26.02.0000.055.53.003.23.34

Date: 31/10/2024

### Inviting Applications/Tenders for Allotment of Pavilions/Stalls/Restaurants' spaces

The month long 29th Dhaka International Trade Fair (DITF)-2025 will be held at Bangladesh-China Friendship Exhibition Center (BCFEC) at Purbachal from 01 January, 2025. Applications/tenders are invited from interested local and foreign companies/firms/entrepreneurs/businessmen/sole proprietors/organizations, government and non-government organizations for allotting/allocating spaces of following different categories of pavilions/restaurants/stalls/corner of DITF-2025:

#### Application/Tender Submission Procedure:

##### 1. Online Application/Tender:

1. Application/Tender Submission Link: <http://services.mincom.gov.bd/portal/ditf>
- 1.2. Application/Tender Submission Start Date: 01.11.2024 & Closing Date & Time: 17.11.2024, 05:00 p.m. (local time)

#### (A) Type/category, Size, Processing Fee, Floor Rate/Rent/Royalty of Pavilion/Restaurant/Stall (Local):

Sl. No	Type/category of Pavilion/Stall/Restaurants	Size	Application Processing Fee (Including VAT & Tax) Non Refundable	Floor Rate (Lowest Price of Rent/Royalty) (excluding VAT & Tax)
1	Premier Pavilion (PP) (Category-A)	(65'x36')	Tk.20,000/-	Tk.22,00,000/-
2	Premier Pavilion (PP) (Category-B)	(50'x50')	Tk.20,000/-	Tk.21,00,000/-
3	Premier Pavilion (PP) (Category-C)	(56'x36')	Tk.20,000/-	Tk.21,00,000/-
4	General Pavilion (GP)	(36'x36')	Tk.21,000/-	Tk.15,00,000/-
5	Premier Mini Pavilion (PMP)	(36'x17')	Tk.14,000/-	Tk.11,00,000/-
6	Premier Restaurant (PR)	(50'x50')	Tk.16,000/-	Tk.17,00,000/-
7	Premier Mini Restaurant (PMR)	(20'x20')	Tk.12,000/-	Tk.6,50,000/-
8	Premier Stall (PS)	(20'x20')	Tk.7,000/-	Tk.4,50,000/-
9	Premier Mini Stall (PMS)	(20'x10')	Tk.7,000/-	Tk.3,30,000/-
10	General Stall (GS)	(20'x20')	Tk.7,000/-	Tk.4,00,000/-
11	Coffee Shop (CS)	(20'x20')	Tk.7,000/-	Tk.4,00,000/-

#### 1.3. Security Deposit (Pavilions/Restaurants/Stalls/Coffee Shops as in Table-"A"):

Applicants/tenders shall deposit an amount equal to 25% (twenty-five percent) of the quoted price/rent (highest quoted price/rent in case of multiple choices) in advance as Security Deposit (refundable) along with the applications/tenders through "Sonali Payment Gateway" of Sonali Bank PLC (Counter Payment/Account Payment/Mobile Financial Service(MFS)& Card).

#### 1.4. Instructions regarding online payment:

- (a) Online applicants/tenders can complete payment process through "Sonali Payment Gateway" of Sonali Bank PLC;
- (b) The applicant/tender can complete the payment process through his/her own Card, Account, Internet banking, Mobile banking and Counter Payment. But, Bank limit is a must for Card, Account and Counter Payment. Payment process can be completed through Counter Payment if there is an available limit for Counter, Card and Account Payment;
- (c) In case of online payment, limit for the amount equal to the quoted rate/rent needs to be approved by the concerned bank before the payment is made;
- (d) In case of Counter Payment, applicant is to select the Counter option, download/collect the Counter voucher and can complete the payment process within 03 (three) working days at any branch of Sonali Bank PLC. Otherwise, payment will be considered as canceled. Application will be automatically submitted and confirmed through the mobile message as soon as the payment is made;
- (e) In case of mobile banking, transaction above tk.03 (three lakh), as fixed by the government, cannot be made.

#### 2. Manual/E-mail Application/Tender:

- 2.1. Application/Tender Submission Start Date: 01.11.2024
- 2.2. Application/Tender Submission Closing Date & Time: 17.11.2024, 05:00 p.m. (local time)
- 2.3. Place/means of receiving Application/Tender form/schedule: Application form/tender schedule can be collected directly from EPB Admin. Section and DITF Secretariat (from 03.11.2024) or from Website: [www.epb.gov.bd](http://www.epb.gov.bd) and Facebook: [www.facebook.com/epb.gov.bd](https://www.facebook.com/epb.gov.bd)
- 2.4. Place of submission of Application/tender: (a) Office of the Secretary (Deputy Secretary), EPB, Dhaka (b) Ministry of Commerce (Building # 03, Room # 127), Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka (c) Office of the Additional Divisional Commissioner (General) (1st 12 storied Govt. Building, Room # 303, Segunbagicha, Dhaka). Filled in application/tender can be submitted directly via e-mail: [ditf@epb.gov.bd](mailto:ditf@epb.gov.bd) or by post/courier service. However, applications/tenders submitted/received after stipulated date and time shall be treated void/unacceptable.

#### (B) Type/category, Size, Processing Fee, Floor Rate/Rent/Royalty of Pavilion/Stall (Foreign):

Sl. No	Type/category of Pavilion/Stall/Restaurants	Size	Application Processing Fee (Including VAT & Tax) Non Refundable	Floor Rate (Fixed) (Lowest Price of Rent/ Royalty) (excluding VAT & Tax)
1	Foreign Pavilion (FP)	(36'x36')	US \$ 400.00	US \$ 19,000.00
2	Foreign Mini Pavilion (FMP)	(36'x17')	US \$ 270.00	US \$ 10,000.00
3	Foreign Premier Stall (FPS)	(20'x20')	US \$ 135.00	US \$ 7,000.00

#### 2.5 Security Deposit (Pavilions/Stalls as in Table-"B"):

Applicants/Tenders interested in obtaining allotment of spaces of FP, FMP and FPS shall deposit foreign currency amounting to 25% (twenty-five percent) of the quoted price/rent/floor rent in advance as Security Deposit along with the Applications/Tenders in favor of "DHAKA INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR FUND" in the following Foreign Currency (FC) Account (in US\$):

- Name of the Bank: PRIME BANK LTD.
- 54 Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh
- A/C No: 11351130020437
- SWIFT Code No: PRBLBDDH1010

#### (C) Type/category, Size, Processing Fee, Floor Rate/Rent/Royalty of Reserved Mini Pavilion/Stall (Local):

Sl. No	Type/category of Pavilion/Stall/Restaurants	Size	Application Processing Fee (Including VAT & Tax) Non Refundable	Floor Rate (Fixed) (Lowest Price of Rent/ Royalty) (excluding VAT & Tax)
1	Reserved Mini Pavilion (RMP)	(36'x17')	Tk.14,000/-	Tk.11,00,000/-
2	Reserved Stall (RS)	(20'x20')	Tk.7,000/-	Tk.4,50,000/-
3	Reserved Mini Stall (RMS)	(18'x18')	Tk.6,000/-	Tk.2,50,000/-
4	Sourcing Corner (SC)	(20'x20')	Tk.7,000/-	Tk.4,00,000/-

#### 2.6 Security Deposit (Local Applicants for RMP/RMS/SC as in Table-"C"):

Applicants/Tenders shall deposit money amounting to 25% (twenty-five percent) of the quoted price/rent/floor rate (as applicable) in advance as Security Deposit along with the Applications/Tenders in favor of "DHAKA INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR FUND" in any branch of BRAC BANK LTD. in the following Bank Account:

- Name of the Bank: BRAC BANK LTD. (any branch),
- SND A/C No: 1501102485103001

#### 3. Papers/documents to be submitted by Local Applicants(Online/manual/E-mail applications/tenders):

Applications/tenders shall be submitted along with scanned copies of deposit slip of processing fee and security money, valid and up-to-date trade license, NID, VAT registration certificate, up-to-date Income Tax clearance certificate for the tax assessment year 2023-2024, up-to-date bank solvency certificate and membership certificate of Chamber/Trade Association (if applicable). In case of downloaded Application form, necessary documents as stated above shall also be submitted along with the Application/tender. Original documents shall have to be submitted during scrutinizing the submitted Application/tender documents.

#### 4. Papers/documents to be submitted by Foreign Applicants/tenders:

- 4.1. Duly filled in application/tender forms downloaded from Dhaka International Trade Fair service box of EPB's website: [www.epb.gov.bd](http://www.epb.gov.bd) along with required documents can be sent through e-mail ([ditf@epb.gov.bd](mailto:ditf@epb.gov.bd)). In case of any difficulty due to unavoidable circumstances, duly filled-in Application/tender forms can also be submitted along with required documents by Fax/Courier service/Postal services.
- 4.2. All online (e-mail: [ditf@epb.gov.bd](mailto:ditf@epb.gov.bd)) applications/tenders shall be submitted through concerned Bangladesh Missions abroad or through Missions of their own countries in Dhaka along with scanned copies of deposit slip of Tender/Application processing fee and security money.
- 4.3. Import of exhibits will be allowed on payment of customs duties and taxes at the Customs points of entry or as per provisions made by the Customs authority.
- 4.4. Applicants of those countries where Bangladesh Missions are not available or who don't have their own Missions in Dhaka will have to apply through Government/Chamber/Trade Bodies of their own countries.

#### 5. Reserved Pavilion/Stall Allotment Process:

A few numbers of Mini-Pavilions/Stalls/Sourcing Corners shall be kept reserved for allotting among the government/semi-government/autonomous bodies/organizations/scheduled banks, recognized trade associations/bodies, women entrepreneurs etc. Applications for these reserved pavilions/stalls/sourcing corners will be scrutinized and successful/valid applicants will be allotted these pavilions/stalls/sourcing corners at the floor rate/price. In this regard, decision to be made by the Fair Authority will be considered final.

#### 7. Place, date & time for opening Applications/tenders:

All applications/tenders shall be opened on 20.11.2024 at 03:30 p.m. at the Conference Room of EPB (TCB Bhaban, 1 Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215) in the presence of applicants/tenders (if any).

#### 8. General Terms & Conditions:

- 8.1. Premier Pavilion, Premier Mini-Pavilion, General Pavilion, Premier Restaurant, Premier Mini Restaurant, Premier Stall, Premier Mini-Stall, Coffee Shop, Foreign Pavilion, Foreign Mini Pavilion, Foreign Premier Stall will be available for auction for allotting them in favor of the highest bidders subject to fulfilling all terms & conditions;
- 8.2. General Stalls will be allotted among the eligible applicants/tenders by lottery. However, in case of allotment of General Stall, Women Entrepreneurs, Small & Cottage industries, Exporters, Manufacturers, Manufacturing Associations, Government/Autonomous Bodies, Chambers/Trade Associations, Banks & Assemblers will be given priority;
- 8.3. Location map, number and quantity of Pavilion, Mini-Pavilion, Stall, Restaurant etc. will be available in DITF-2025 Master Lay-Out Plan kept at DITF Secretariat and will also be available in the website: [www.epb.gov.bd](http://www.epb.gov.bd) and Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/epb.gov.bd](https://www.facebook.com/epb.gov.bd);
- 8.4. The quoted rate/price shall not be less than that of "Floor Rate" as stated in table(A), table (B) and table (C). Applicants/tenders should quote the rate in order of preference. Successful/selected bidder/applicant will have to pay 15% for VAT & 10% for Tax on quoted rate as per Government rules in addition to the quoted amount;
- 8.5. Participants, except for manufacturers, will only be allowed to display only one product group approved by the fair authority. Product groups defined by the fair authority shall be treated as final;
- 8.6. Finally selected applicants shall not be allowed to transfer the possession of Pavilion, Stall and Restaurants etc. through power of attorney to anybody at any cost. In case of non-compliance of this rule, the security deposit and rent will be forfeited and allotment will also be cancelled;
- 8.7. Companies/firms/entrepreneurs/businessmen/sole proprietors/organizations are not entitled to participate in the application/tender/bidding activities of DITF-2025 if they had not paid full amount of money, which was outstanding for previous DITFs and such applicants will not be allotted any space of DITF-2025;
- 8.8. Name or brand or logo or sign owned by other organizations/enterprises/ companies shall not be used or displayed in signboard or banner/festoon of stall/pavilion/restaurant of any participating enterprise/company/entity in DITF-2025. Otherwise, legal actions will be taken against them.

#### 9. Other Conditions for both Local & Foreign Participants:

- 9.1. Money deposited for Security of Local and Foreign participants will be refundable at the end of the fair period subject to the fulfillment of the terms and conditions mentioned in the Application form/schedules/allotment letter and in the advertisement;
- 9.2. Applicants not selected for allotment of Pavilion/Stalls by the fair authority will get back the money deposited for Security at the end of the fair;
- 9.3. After final selection, non-participation or unwilling to complete the allotted work, applicants shall result in forfeiture of their Security Deposit;
- 9.4. Selected participants will be required to submit the deposit slip of the rent/quoted price in full amount plus applicable VAT and Tax in favor of DHAKA INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR FUND within 07(Seven) days from the date of issuance of primary allotment letter in the respective Bank Accounts;
- 9.5. Local participants will not be allowed to sell or exhibit imported foreign commodities and goods without valid customs documents;
- 9.6. Applicants for Restaurant and Premier Mini Restaurant, in addition to the documents referred to in clause-3 (Papers/documents to be submitted by Local Applicants) will be required to sell food and drinks as per approved rate and price determined by the fair authority. In this connection, a written undertaking has to be provided on Tk.300/- worth Non-Judicial Stamp along with the Application form. The applicant must be a professional restaurant-owner/food supplier and should have appropriate license for running a restaurant or supplier of food;
- 9.7. An applicant can apply for more than one item/category of spaces but the fair authority reserves the right to allot only one product group;
- 9.8. Commodities and goods made in Bangladesh shall not be displayed or sold in foreign pavilion/stall in DITF-2025;
- 9.9. Illegal/un-approved/commodities and goods detrimental to health shall not be displayed or sold in DITF-2025;
- 9.10. Exhibitors can only sell or display products approved by the fair authority;
- 9.11. Submission of fake documents with Application form will be subject to the forfeiture of security deposit and cancellation of allotment along with other penalties as per existing law;
- 9.12. No food item(s) shall be allowed to sell in other stalls or pavilions than in Restaurant/food stall of DITF-2025. Provided that, on the basis of application of any enterprise/company/participant, the fair authority may allow to sell such item(s) in other stalls or pavilions or in any other space of DITF-2025 premises if it considers those are necessary or logical. In this regard, the decision of the fair authority shall be considered final;
- 9.13. The selected owner of best Stalls/Pavilions will be awarded as per decision of the fair authority;
- 9.14. If the duration of DITF-2025 is extended, participating enterprises/companies/ entities shall have to pay additional rent/royalty for the extended period proportionately;
- 9.15. Participants will only be allowed to decorate the already built-in Shell Scheme booths/stalls in Hall-A & B of BCFEC allotted to them by the fair authority. No other construction work including any sort of digging into the floor of the hall in this respect will be allowed;
- 9.16. No tender/application will be acceptable if it is not accompanied with required documents mentioned in the advertisement and schedules/Incomplete tender/ application will not be acceptable;
- 9.17. Any entrepreneur or enterprise/company declared unfit to participate in DITF activities or black listed by EPB will not be eligible to submit any application/tender;
- 9.18. All money (processing fees/rents) required for depositing in the Fair Fund, shall be deposited by filing the specified "Deposit Slip" downloaded from the website: [www.epb.gov.bd](http://www.epb.gov.bd)/Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/epb.gov.bd](https://www.facebook.com/epb.gov.bd). Otherwise, the claim of deposit of money in the Fair Fund shall not be acceptable;
- 9.19. All taxes, duties etc. imposed by the Government must be complied with by the participants on their sale in respective pavilion, restaurant, stalls etc.;
- 9.20. The fair authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications without showing any reason;
- 9.21. The fair authority reserves the right to change the date & time of the fair without showing any reason;
- 9.22. Also, the fair authority reserves the right to cancel this advertisement and entire tendering process without showing any reason whatsoever.

Secretary (Deputy Secretary), EPB

Director, 29th Dhaka International Trade Fair-2025 Secretariat  
TCB Bhaban, 1, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh

Phone: 02-55013420, PABX: 02-9144822-24, 8180084, 8180087, 8180090, Extension: 114, Fax: 880-2-55014024, E-mail: [secv@epb.gov.bd](mailto:secv@epb.gov.bd)

# Stocks rise for 3rd day

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**

The stock markets in Bangladesh maintained an upward trend for a third consecutive day yesterday as investors cautiously traded on select shares amidst optimism over regulatory measures.

Insiders and market analysts said a section of investors was optimistic over the latest market trends, thanks to higher earnings disclosures of listed companies and regulatory efforts to bring back stability.

They believe that Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed's recent meeting with the authorities of the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission over liquidity support actually gave a boost to overall confidence.

The DSEX, the benchmark index of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), edged up 34.56 points, or 0.67 percent, from that on the previous day before closing at 5,199.

Similarly, the DSES index for the Shariah-based companies rose by 8.69 points, or 0.76 percent, to 1,144.

In the blue-chip segment, the DS30 index grew by 10.19 points, or 0.53 percent, to 1,926. At Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE), the

CSE All Share Price Index (CASPI), the broad index of the port city bourse, witnessed a similar upward trend, as it gained 94.23 points, or 0.66 percent, to settle at 14,442.

At the DSE, Islami Bank Bangladesh alone accounted for a 14.92 point rise.

Shares of Bangladesh Submarine Cables, Robi Axiata, National Bank, Orion Pharma, Renata, City Bank, Padma Oil Company, United Commercial Bank and Orion Infusion drew investors the most, as per LankaBangla Financial Portal.

However, shares of Gramenphone, British American Tobacco Bangladesh, Olympic Industries, BRAC Bank, Premier Bank, Pubali Bank, Southeast Bank, Khan Brothers PP Woven Bag Industries, Pragati Life Insurance and MJL Bangladesh suffered losses.

Of the issues that were traded on the DSE, prices of 212 saw a price increase, those of 151 closed lower and the remaining 34 did not see any price movement.

Turnover, which indicates the total value of shares changing hands on the trading floor, increased by 7.12 percent to Tk 556 crore.

The pharmaceuticals sector dominated the turnover chart, accounting for 20.03 percent

of the total.

On the other hand, block trades, meaning high-volume transactions in securities that are privately negotiated and executed outside the open market, contributed another 2.7 percent.

Bangladesh Shipping Corporation emerged as the most traded share, with a turnover of Tk 27.9 crore.

Among the sectors, mutual fund, general insurance, and services and real estate became the top three to close in the positive, according to UCB Stock Brokerage.

However, jute, tannery, and life insurance were the top three to close in the negative.

Most of the large-cap sectors, meaning those that account for large amounts in market capitalisation, which is the total value of outstanding shares, posted a positive performance.

The banking sector experienced the highest gain of 0.74 percent, followed by engineering (0.67 percent), telecommunication (0.54 percent), fuel and power (0.46 percent), pharmaceuticals (0.41 percent) and food and allied (0.11 percent).

Non-bank financial institutions recorded a loss of 0.31 percent.

# BB governor takes charge as Saarc Finance Network

**STAR BUSINESS REPORT**

Bangladesh Bank (BB) Governor Ahsan H Mansur has recently taken charge as chairperson of Saarc Finance Network for one year.

The BB governor took the charge at the 46th Saarc Finance Governors' Group Meeting held in Washington on October 24, said a press release from the central bank yesterday.

In the meeting, Bangladesh was formally handed over responsibility as the chair country of Saarc Finance from the preceding chair country, Sri Lanka, it added.

At the 45th Saarc Finance Governors' Group Meeting in Sri Lanka in June 2024, Bangladesh agreed to be the chair country following a request of the governors of the central banks of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc).



**Ahsan H Mansur**

As per the terms of reference of the Saarc Finance Network, two governors' group meetings are convened annually, with the participation of the governors and finance secretaries of Saarc member central banks and ministries of finance.

The first meeting is traditionally held in the Saarc Finance chair country, whereas the second meeting takes place alongside the October/November IMF World Bank Group meetings.

The Saarc Finance Network originated from the 10th Saarc Summit held in Colombo on July 29, 1998.

The heads of state/government of the Saarc region agreed, in principle, to establish a "Network of Central Bank Governors and Finance Secretaries of the Saarc Region (Saarc Finance)" to facilitate macroeconomic policies and share mutual experiences and need based ideas.

# Financial inclusion Islami Bank sees first

**FROM PAGE B1**

"This one of the reasons why financial inclusion has not improved among garment workers," he added.

Stressing the need for a legal framework to facilitate financial inclusion, Mohammad Rashed, president of Digital Finance Forum Bangladesh, said related policymakers and stakeholders should be knowledgeable to this end.

Mosleh Saad Mahmud, the head of cash management and liability marketing at Dhaka Bank, said the process of improving financial inclusion among garment workers should start from the banking sector.

But when the banks assess workers' eligibility for loans, they do not get the required information due to the lack of relevant data, such as the applicant's creditworthiness, he added.

Md Forhad Mahmud, head of mobile banking division and financial inclusion at Dutch Bangla Bank, said they facilitate the salary payments of 2.5 million workers through their MFS service "Rocket".

However, the account holders limit their activities to only basic transactions for a lack of financial and digital literacy, he added.

Rumana A Tulee, assistant vice president of the agent banking division at Bank Asia, said four factors - accessibility, convenience, supportive products and financial literacy - should be improved to facilitate financial inclusion of workers.

Rashadul Islam, senior assistant vice president of Dhaka Bank, said the process and cost of access to finance should be made easier and more affordable for garment workers.

**FROM PAGE B1**

anything like that. Meanwhile, Chattogram-based business giant S Alam Group utilised the bank for its own benefit by taking loans in the name of several firms.

The group accounts for more than half of the outstanding loans of Islami Bank. At the end of June, Islami Bank's total outstanding credit stood at Tk 174,000 crore, according to the bank's records.

Following the July-August student movement this year, the central bank reconstituted the Islami Bank board on August 22, with Md Obayed Ullah Al Masud, the former managing director of Rupali Bank, as its chairman.

Four independent directors were also appointed. Since then, the bank has been trying to

recuperate.

Islami Bank logged a 24 percent year-on-year higher net investment income in the quarter, amounting to Tk 1,123 crore.

At the same time, its other operating incomes, including commissions, dropped 1 percent to Tk 545 crore.

The financial report of the company showed that its operating costs rose 11 percent to Tk 1,193 crore.

However, if the January-September period of the current year is considered, the bank logged a profit of Tk 267 crore, although it was a 63 percent year-on-year decline.

The price of its shares rose 4 percent to Tk 53 at Dhaka Stock Exchange yesterday.

S Alam Group Chairman Mohammad Saiful Alam was not available for comments.

# US secret

**FROM PAGE B1**

day training programme will begin at the Police Staff College Bangladesh in the capital on November 10, followed by another five-day training session from November 17.

Another two sets of follow-up training sessions of the second phase will begin respectively on February 2 and February 9.

All agencies responsible for tackling money laundering have become active after the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led government on August 5 this year.

The BFIU, ACC, NBR, BSEC, and other regulatory bodies have initiated investigations into business tycoons who have allegedly siphoned money abroad.

The interim-government has already formed a task force headed by the Bangladesh Bank governor to bring back the laundered money.

In a recent interview with the Financial Times, BB Governor Ahsan H Mansur accused tycoons linked to the toppled Sheikh Hasina regime of working with members of the country's powerful intelligence agency to siphon \$17 billion (around Tk 2 trillion) out of Bangladesh's banking sector during her rule.

# BB removes

**FROM PAGE B1**

central bank notification yesterday.

Any amount of foreign currency declared to customs authorities and up to \$5,000 brought in without declaration can be deposited into RFCO accounts.

However, proceeds from exports of goods or services from Bangladesh, or commissions from business deals within the country, cannot be credited to these accounts.

# Completely lift

**FROM PAGE B1**

Imported onions also saw a price rise of nearly 8 percent, reaching Tk 85-Tk 120 per kilogramme, according to TCB.

The BTTC said India, a major supplier of the bulb to Bangladesh, recently imposed a 20 percent export duty to curb exports due to domestic shortages. This has further increased import costs and influenced local onion prices.

The BTTC said the NBR lifted the regulatory duty on onion imports on September 5, maintaining only a 5 percent import tariff until November 30.

"Now it would be prudent to completely remove the duty for a specific period to reduce import cost of onions and increase supply to the domestic market," it said.

"It appears that it would be possible to control the price spike if the imports are encouraged," said BTTC. Bangladesh produces around 2.6 million tonnes of onions annually, which can meet up to 80 percent of domestic demand.

# Social Islami Bank fires 579 officers

**FROM PAGE B1**

said the terminated officers were appointed illegally from Patiya in Chattogram without any recruitment notification or examination.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, a senior bank official told The Daily Star that Social Islami Bank has 4,750 employees, of whom around 1,500 are from Chattogram.

Of the 579 terminated

officers, 570 were appointed in 2024 and the remaining nine in 2023.

Mohammad Forkanullah, acting managing director of Social Islami Bank, told The Daily Star that the new board conducted an inspection of the human resources department. The inspection found that the terminated officers were appointed in violation of the bank's service rules, including the

absence of recruitment notifications, interviews and examinations.

Forkanullah said the appointment letters included a clause allowing the bank to terminate probationary officers during their probationary period, as their positions were not yet permanent.

He said more than 1,300 officials of the bank were appointed by S Alam group.

**Project on "Development of Nuclear Regulatory Infrastructure of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority to Supervise the Nuclear Safety of Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant"**

**Bangladesh Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority**  
E-12/A, Agargaon, Post Box No-240, Dhaka-1207

Phone : 88-02-222218462  
Fax : 88-02-222218215  
E-mail : info@baera.gov.bd  
Website : www.baera.gov.bd

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**Invitation for Expression of Interest (EOI)**

Sealed Expressions of Interest (EOI)/Applications are hereby invited from competent consulting firms (national) to provide consultancy services for design, monitoring, supervision (as deemed necessary) and reporting for construction of office cum laboratory building, residential building, rest house and other necessary structures adjacent to the Green City, Rooppur, Ishwardi, Pabna as per terms and conditions stated below:

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH	
Ministry/Division	Ministry of Science and Technology
Agency Name	Bangladesh Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority (BAERA)
Procuring Entity Name	Development of Nuclear Regulatory Infrastructure of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority to Supervise the Nuclear Safety of Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant.
Procuring Entity Code	N/A
Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
Inviting Expression of Interest for Selection of	Consultancy services (national) for all design, monitoring, supervision (as deemed necessary) and reporting for construction of office cum laboratory building, residential building, rest house and other structures adjacent to the Green City, Rooppur, Ishwardi, Pabna.
EOI Ref. No and Date	39.07.0000.003.30.113.24, Date: 31.10.2024
KEY INFORMATION	
Procurement Sub Method	Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS)
FUNDING INFORMATION	
Source of Funds	GOB (Annual Development Budget)
PARTICULAR INFORMATION	
Deadline/Last Date, Time and Place for EOI/Application Submission	17.11.2024, 12.00 PM, Office of the Project Director, Authority Bhavan, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207
EOI Opening Date, Time and Place	17.11.2024, 12.30 PM, Office of the Project Director, Authority Bhavan, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207
Location of Construction Works	Adjacent to the Green City at Rooppur, Ishwardi Pabna.
Special Notes/Other information:	(1) EOI shall be submitted as per prescribed format following Bangladesh Public Procurement Authority (BPPA) (2) EOI shall be submitted in sealed envelope and those shall be clearly marked as "Expressions of Interest for (Name of work)" on the envelope. (3) Contact address with email and mobile number of the Firm shall be written on the envelope. (4) The firm need to submit detailed CV of all the assigned employees for the job. (5) 02 (two) sets of EOI (one original and one copy) filled in the prescribed format with supporting documents shall be submitted. (6) Delayed submission of application shall not be allowed.
INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT	
Brief Description of the Assignment	Design a complex consist of office cum laboratory building, residential building, rest house building including all necessary items in master plan as well as detailed coordinated 2D drawing and 3D visualization of each building and details. All the necessary works need to be carried out by experienced consultant with ensuring utmost quality namely digital topography survey, pre-work survey, soil sub investigation, etc. as per requirement. Preparation of environmental impact assessment of the site including proposed architectural, with 3D visualization of total work must be presented for approval. Detailed drawing of structural, electrical, plumbing and mechanical, design & interior work coordinated drawings and 3D representation of MEP and interior final aesthetics must be done by the applicant. Preliminary design report must be submitted with necessary demolition plan and improvement and retention plan. Preparation of technical specifications, cost and quantity estimates for tender documents, contracts documents, project management and monitoring plan including project scheduling of total complex is also under the scope of the consultant. Full time construction supervision may be required using necessary resident engineers or architects.
Experience, Resources and Delivery Capacity required	Consultancy firm must have professional working experience of at least 10 (Ten) years in the field of consultancy services with fulfillment of the above-mentioned assignment in Govt/Semi Govt/Autonomous or any other sectors. Experience, strong and dedicated team deployment (consist of Architect and all trades engineers) for the previous completed projects must be provided with necessary proof of documents. Applicant must be nationally recognized and has good profile of completion multidisciplinary and complex project in their professional record or history. Total staff of the organization with organogram and specific dedicated person details will be submitted following the format of CV in EOI. Company Brochure along with up-to-date trade license, VAT registration with TIN number, up to date Income Tax clearance certificate, Bank solvency certificate from the schedule bank of Bangladesh need to be provided. Information in preparing tender documents to avoid escalation of budget and variations.
Other Details	In addition to the requirement and activities mentioned in the above, the following tasks, terms and conditions shall be the integral part of the submission (1) Before submitting EOI, all clarifications must be specified or raised in writing to procuring authority if there is any. (2) The Project Authority reserves the right to call for any information during evaluation. Failure to provide the documents will be considered as disqualified for next stage. (3) For Joint venture, updated PPR-2008 will be followed during submission.
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS	
Name of Official Inviting EOI with designation	Dr. Satyajit Ghose, Project Director.
Address of Official Inviting Application	Office of the Project Director, Project on "Development of Nuclear Regulatory Infrastructure of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority to Supervise the Nuclear Safety of Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant", Authority Bhavan, E-12/A, Shahid Shahabuddin Shorok, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207
Contact details of Official Inviting EOI	Telephone no: +8802-222218216, Mobile No.: 01718501235, E-mail Address: ghosesatyajit@yahoo.com
The Procuring Entity reserves the right to change or rectify any term and conditions of EOI without mentioning/assigning any reason. The Entity also reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOIs without mentioning/assigning any reason.	

(Dr. Satyajit Ghose)  
Project Director  
Development of Nuclear Regulatory Infrastructure of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority to Supervise the Nuclear Safety of Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant  
E-12/A, Shahid Shahabuddin Shorok, Agargaon, PO Box-240, Dhaka-1207

GD-849

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Office of the Director  
Botanical Garden and Eco-park, Chattogram  
and  
Project Director  
Eco-system Restoration and Biodiversity Conservation of Botanical Garden and Eco-park, Chattogram Project.

Memo No: 22.01.0000.846.14.014.24. 855 Date: 28/10/2024

**e-Tender Notice**

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following works:

Tender ID & Package No.	Name of the Package	Online Notice Publication Date and Time:	Online Tender last selling Date and Time:	Online Tender Closing Date and Time:
1029493, BGE/2024-25/W07	Construction of CI Sheet Roofing Barrack for 4th Class Employee.	31-Oct-2024 10:00:00	17-Nov-2024 17:00	18-Nov-2024 13:00:00
1030094, BGE/2024-25/W05	Maintenance, repair and renovation of Office Building at Botanical Garden and Eco-park, Sitakunda	31-Oct-2024 10:00:00	17-Nov-2024 17:00	18-Nov-2024 14:00:00

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National 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 Documents from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

(Mohammed Hossain)  
Director  
Botanical Garden and Eco-park, Chattogram  
And  
Project Director  
Eco-system Restoration and Biodiversity Conservation of Botanical Garden and Eco-park, Chattogram Project  
Phone: 0241380404.  
email: bge.ctg@gmail.com

GD-847

**বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড**  
Bangladesh Power Dev. Board

Directorate of Purchase  
WAPDA Building (9th Floor)  
Motijheel C/A, Dhaka  
Phone No. 223383081  
E-mail: dir\_purchase@bpd.gov.bd

**e-Tender Notice**

The following e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of:

SL No.	Tender ID No.	Package No.	Reference No.	Description of goods/works	Last selling date and time	Closing date and time	Opening date and time
1	1030617	EE-GRL-2 FY:24-25/Lot-1	Pur-103/ID-1030617/xfrmr/EE-GRL-2/Rev/FY24-25 Date: 31/10/2024	Procurement of Lot-1: 11/0.4kV, 250KVA Dist Transformer (Fauzderhat Store)	01-Dec-2024 13:00	01-Dec-2024 14:00	01-Dec-2024 14:00
2	1030618	EE-GRL-2 FY:24-25/Lot-2	Pur-104/ID-1030618/xfrmr/EE-GRL-2/Rev/FY24-25 Date: 31/10/2024	Procurement of Lot-2: 11/0.4kV, 200KVA Dist. Transformer (Tongi Store)	01-Dec-2024 13:00	01-Dec-2024 14:00	01-Dec-2024 14:00

Those are online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National 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 documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

For more details please contact to the PE's Support Desk (01768595879).

বিদ্যুৎ/জন-৩৫৪(২)/৩১/১০/২৪

**Md. Nannu Miah**  
ID No. 1-01304  
Director  
Directorate of Purchase  
BPDB, Dhaka

জিডি-৮৪৮

## Bata gives 340% cash dividend despite Tk 13cr loss in Q3

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bata Shoe Company (Bangladesh) Ltd reported a net loss of Tk 12.77 crore in the third quarter of 2024, stating that limited retail operations had dampened its sales and profitability.

Despite the quarterly setback, Bata declared a 340 percent interim cash dividend, utilising retained earnings of 2023.

The company's loss per share stood at Tk 9.34, which is significantly worse than the Tk 1.19 loss per share of the same period last year, according to a disclosure on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) website.

Cash flow of the company also registered a decline, with net operating cash flow per share dropping to Tk 11.44 for the nine months ending in September, whereas it was Tk 39.28 last year.

Bata attributed the decline to an increase in payments to suppliers and contractors, compounded by higher material costs and the depreciation of the Bangladeshi taka against foreign currencies.

The share price of Bata declined 2.36 percent to Tk 925.3 at the DSE yesterday.

## IFIC Bank posts 63% lower profit in Q3

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

IFIC Bank PLC registered a 63 percent year-on-year drop in profit in the third quarter of 2024.

The profit amounted to Tk 7.68 crore.

The bank's earnings per share (EPS) stood at Tk 0.04 in this year's third quarter whereas it was Tk 0.11 in same quarter of the previous year, according to a disclosure on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) website.

The bank attributed the EPS decline to a weak performance of its subsidiary compared to that in the previous year.

The commercial lender's profit for the first nine months of 2024 stood at Tk 69.19 crore.

Cash flow pressures intensified for the bank, as it posted a consolidated net operating cash flow per share (NOCFPS) of Tk 2.42 in the negative in the January-September period.

In contrast, it was Tk 3 in the positive in the same period the previous year.

IFIC Bank cited the decline in the NOCFPS to a decrease in deposit growth relative to loans and advances, adding that it was the primary factor which had an impact on cash flow.



The new policy made it mandatory for all lighter vessels to obtain a serial number and allocation from a newly named private platform—Bangladesh Water Transport Coordination Cell.

PHOTO: STAR/FILE

# Cargo transport by lighters may face disruptions as dispute intensifies

DWAIPAYAN BARUA, *Ctg*

Transportation of imported cargo from the Chattogram port to different parts of the country through inland water routes may face disruptions as disputes among lighter vessel owners' organisations over managing the trade has intensified.

In the latest development, water transport workers' leaders held a protest rally in Chattogram on Tuesday and gave an ultimatum to vessel owners to resolve their dispute and restart operating under a single platform.

They demanded a return to the previous single serial system, with allocations by a newly announced private platform and the retention of the previous freight rate from November 4.

Otherwise, they threatened to obstruct vessels loading cargo from mother vessels and transporting those bypassing the serial system.

On October 15, the shipping ministry issued a notification about a new policy for cargo transport by lighter vessels.

This policy made it mandatory for all lighter vessels to obtain a serial number and allocation from a newly named private platform—Bangladesh Water Transport Coordination Cell (BWTC).

But a section of leaders from the Inland Vessel Owners Association of Chattogram (IVOAC) opposed the single serial system, arguing that it would reinstate a previous monopoly over the inland cargo transportation trade.

More than 10 crore tonnes of annually imported bulk cargo, including commodities,

fertilisers and industrial raw materials, are unloaded from mother vessels at the outer anchorage of Chattogram port onto lighter vessels.

These vessels then transport the cargo through 40 different inland water routes. Over 1,800 lighter vessels are involved in this process.

In 2004, three vessel owners' organisations jointly formed a single private platform called the Water Transport Cell (WTC) to operate vessels for the transport of import cargoes on inland waterways.

**In the latest development, water transport workers' leaders held a protest rally in Chattogram on Tuesday and gave an ultimatum to vessel owners to resolve their dispute and restart operating under a single platform**

The three are Bangladesh Cargo Vessel Owners Association (BCVOA), the Coastal Ship Owners Association of Bangladesh (COAB) and the IVOAC.

Bringing allegations of financial irregularities against the BCVOA, the IVOAC leaders split from the WTC in December last year and began operating vessels independently.

Mehub Kabir, general secretary of the BCVOA, told The Daily Star that after the abolition of the WTC and its serial system, a section of cargo agents and vessel owners

started transporting goods at much lower freight rates.

This led to losses for a larger portion of vessel owners and forced many out of the trade, he said.

Workers of several hundred lighter vessels remained unpaid for the past two or three months, he said.

This was due to vessel owners being compelled to run at low freight rates, mainly because of the unethical practices of a certain group of owners, which ultimately infuriated the workers, he said.

Kabir stressed the need to reintroduce the single serial system as mentioned in the new policy to streamline the sector.

Echoing the view, Shah Alam, president of Bangladesh Noutjan Shramik Federation, said a small group of greedy vessel owners was damaging the sector.

He claimed that the single serial system would ensure fair business practices for all vessel owners.

Contacted, Parvez Ahmed, the IVOAC spokesperson, said the crisis cannot be resolved through force or threats, as being attempted by the BCVOA leaders.

He alleged that several lighter vessels were obstructed from loading cargo from mother vessels at the Kutubdia anchorage and from transporting goods on inland routes by a section of rival groups in the past two days.

Terming the current freight rates set by the previous WTC as "high", Ahmed stressed the need for a tripartite agreement among the three owners' organisations to fix slightly lower freight rates before implementing the BWTC serial system.

## Reviving workplace motivation

MAHTAB UDDIN AHMED

Motivating employees is tantamount to convincing a fish to walk. While managers shout, "reach for excellence!" we reach for a cup of tea after braving Dhaka traffic to work. They say, "think big!" but our minds are counting down to the next public holiday. And "give it your best!" sounds great until someone realises "the best" had left at 5:30pm sharp. Let's face it, the only motivation that really works here is Thursday afternoon, when we clock out and finally escape the inspiration overload!

A study shows that globally, only 15 percent of employees feel motivated. However, motivated workers boost productivity by up to 21 percent. Key motivators include trust in leadership (92 percent) and clear job roles, which increase engagement by 55 percent.

Motivation can rise with flexibility, recognition (78 percent) and mental health programs, highlighting the universal importance of well-being and clear communication.

Maintaining motivation at work is an enduring challenge that professionals struggle with worldwide. Adapting insights to the unique context of Bangladesh can empower individuals to address challenges specific to the country's fast-paced and competitive professional landscape.

In Bangladesh, motivation often wanes due to long hours, career pressures and balancing work with family. Abrahams and Groysberg, in their article "Advice for the Unmotivated", suggest identifying causes like workload, unclear goals, or lack of recognition, and addressing them through open conversations with managers, colleagues, or even family members.

In our workplace, juggling a million tasks daily is common. So, rather than chasing monthly targets, try aiming for weekly wins. In fields like finance or technology, breaking projects into bite size tasks can make progress feel real—like surviving Dhaka traffic, one spotlight at a time!

A sense of purpose is a powerful motivator—just like the story of a NASA janitor who famously said, "I'm helping put a man on the moon." Every work, regardless of how insignificant it may seem, has a deeper meaning and purpose. Professionals in healthcare, education or renewable energy can reignite their passion by seeing their roles as building blocks in Bangladesh's growth, turning daily tasks into contributions to a greater mission.

Another critical motivator is lifelong learning, a gateway from routine work to dynamic growth. As upskilling becomes essential for career advancement, online courses and training programs offer fresh perspectives, igniting renewed enthusiasm. By investing in personal development, professionals foster adaptability, transforming work into a rewarding journey of continuous progress.

Peer support is also a powerful motivator. Openly sharing challenges with trusted colleagues creates a support network that makes the workplace feel less isolating. Coupled with flexible work arrangements and short breaks, employees can recharge and stay focused. Strong peer connections and flexible work habits make work a more balanced and enjoyable experience.

Bangladesh's complex work environment requires resilience and adaptability. Reflecting on the root causes of dissatisfaction, setting achievable goals and engaging with professional peers can help to navigate challenges and sustain enthusiasm. For those in Bangladesh where work often intertwines with family goals, these strategies are compelling, ensuring that motivation remains aligned with both professional and personal/social growth.

True motivation does not have to wait for HR's next initiative—take control and make it yours. Find purpose in your daily tasks, seek out learning that excites you and build connections that make work feel rewarding. Remember, the real motivation is not in posters or programs but in creating moments inspire you. Instead of leaving it up to your employer, take motivation into your own hands.

The author is the founder and managing director of BuildCon Consultancies Ltd



## Meta shows strong growth as AI spending surges

AFP, San Francisco

Facebook owner Meta saw net income and revenues top expectations on Wednesday as the company said it would expand investments into artificial intelligence, drawing nervousness from investors.

The social media behemoth, which is also the parent company of Instagram and WhatsApp, said net profit in the third quarter was \$15.7 billion—up 35 percent on the same period last year.

Revenues rose 19 percent to \$40.6 billion, slightly higher than analyst estimates.

But investors sent Meta shares lower in after hours trading over the outlook for AI spending in the months ahead and another big loss at its virtual and augmented reality arm, Reality Labs.

"Our AI investments continue to require serious infrastructure, and I expect to continue investing significantly there, too," Meta's founder and chief executive Mark Zuckerberg told analysts.

"We haven't decided on a final budget yet, but those are some of the directional trends," he added.

Meta's share price slipped nearly three percent after its earnings results were published.

Like its Big Tech peers, Meta is rushing into artificial intelligence as it tries to build revenue streams away from its social media core business.

AFP, Washington

The US economy saw resilient growth in the third quarter despite a modest slowdown according to government data Wednesday, less than a week before inflation-wary voters head into the presidential election.

The world's biggest economy expanded at an annual rate of 2.8 percent in the July-September period, helped by consumption and government spending, although slowing from the second quarter's 3 percent pace, the Department of Commerce said.

Despite spending more, American consumers have been downbeat about their job and financial prospects, with Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris trailing Republican Donald Trump in opinion polls about the economy.

But sentiment could improve with consumer confidence this month logging the strongest monthly gain since March 2021, according to The Conference Board on Tuesday.

"Today's GDP report shows how far

## US economic growth solid despite slight slowdown



PHOTO: AFP

People shop in a supermarket in the Flatbush neighborhood of the Brooklyn borough in New York City on October 30. The US economy expanded at an annual rate of 2.8 percent in July-September, helped by consumption and government spending.

we've come since I took office—from the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression to the strongest economy in

the world," said President Joe Biden in a statement.

Critics thought a recession was needed

to curb blistering inflation after the coronavirus pandemic, he added, but the US economy grew "around three percent a year on average, while inflation has fallen to the level right before the pandemic."

The latest figure "sends a clear message that the economy is doing well," said economist Ryan Sweet of Oxford Economics, adding that current trends lower risks of a sudden surge in layoffs.

US growth this year is due to outpace other advanced economies like Germany, France and the United Kingdom, the International Monetary Fund estimates.

But the third quarter figure came in slightly below an annual 3 percent rate expected in a market consensus published by Briefing.com.

The Commerce Department said the GDP figure reflected "increases in consumer spending, exports, and federal government spending."

The deceleration from the second quarter was mainly due to a downturn in private inventory investment, alongside a bigger drop in residential fixed investment.