

Gold price hiked to Tk 138,393 per bhoori

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Jewellers hiked gold prices again, with the precious metal set to be sold for Tk 138,393 per bhoori (11.664 grammes) with effect from today.

The previous price of each bhoori of 22-carat gold ornaments stood at Tk 137,226.

The Bangladesh Jewellers' Association's standing committee on pricing and price monitoring took the decision to raise prices in a meeting yesterday, citing an increase in pure gold prices on the local market.

The price of gold in Bangladesh has been rising steadily for more than a year, influenced by hikes in the international market and volatility in domestic supply.

Bangladesh has 1.22cr economic enterprises

Mapping work of economic census finds

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

There are 1.22 crore economic enterprises across the country, according to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS).

Among them, 76 lakh are business establishments and 46 lakh are economic units, the national statistics agency found during the primary mapping and listing work for the country's fourth economic census, said Project Director SM Shakil Akhter.

The three-year economic census is budgeted to cost Tk 579 crore, of which Tk 234 crore has been allocated for the main survey.

The fourth economic census will begin today, introducing new components such as data on foreign nationals working in Bangladesh and information about the e-commerce scene.

Officials of the BBS shared the details at a press briefing at its auditorium in the capital's Agargaon yesterday.

The nationwide census will be conducted from December 10 to 26 using a fully digital

and online system, they said, adding that the mapping and listing work was completed in July.

The country has been divided into 13 divisions, comprising 130 districts, 520 upazilas, 2,600 zones, 19,000 supervisory areas and 95,000 enumeration areas for the census.

In preparation, 1.22 crore enterprises have been identified across the country, made up of 66.22 lakh business establishments and 56.8 lakh agricultural economic households.

Through 70 questions, the census will assess social and environmental aspects, identify challenges, and evaluate ICT integration in production processes, he added.

Project Director Akhter said institutions' income, expenditure and profitability will also be analysed.

He said a report may be provided at the end of January 2025 after the main economic census is conducted.

The national statistical agency will also collect information on activities, manpower,

resources, and basic facilities.

The economic census is usually carried out every 10 years. The BBS launched the first in 1986, the second in 2001-2003 and the third in 2013.

Mahbub Hossain, secretary of the Statistics and Informatics Division, said a digital map, integrating Geographic Information System and geocoding, had been prepared to ensure smooth activities.

The tablets used for data collection will be centrally controlled through mobile device management software, he said.

To preserve and secure collected data, an advanced data centre of the Bangladesh Data Centre Company Limited (BDCCL) will be used.

All data will remain confidential until being transferred from the field through BDCCL to the BBS server. This ensures both the safety of personal information and support for census workers in data collection, he added.

Hossain urged all concerned to ensure active participation and cooperation to make this economic census a success.

DSE's turnover continues to tumble

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Stock trading in Bangladesh has slowed in recent months as most investors are not placing fresh bets considering the market's bleak outlook amid ongoing economic uncertainties.

As such, daily turnover of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) plunged by 5.02 percent to Tk 279 crore yesterday, marking its steepest decline since the political changeover on August 5.

Representing the collective value of traded shares, turnover had last reached such levels when it was recorded at Tk 207 crore a day before the Awami League government was ousted by a mass uprising.

Besides, the turnover on Sunday was 12.47 percent lower than that recorded on the last trading day of the previous week, indicating that recent regulatory measures could be eroding investor confidence.

The textile sector dominated market activities, contributing about 16 percent to the day's total turnover.

Dragon Sweater and Spinning was the most traded stock, registering turnover of Tk 11.5 crore.

Industry people and market analysts said investors are reluctant to pour fresh funds as efforts to curb stock manipulation seem to have dampened their moods.

Oil rises amid China monetary policy move, Assad's fall

REUTERS

Oil prices climbed by more than 1 percent on Monday as top importer China flagged its first move toward a loosened monetary policy since 2010 aiming to bolster economic growth, state media reported citing a Politburo meeting.

Brent crude futures were up 94 cents, or 1.32 percent, to \$72.06 per barrel by 0852 GMT, US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures gained \$1, or 1.49 percent, to \$68.20.

"The easing of monetary policy stance

in China is likely the driver of the oil price rebounding, supporting risk sentiment," UBS analyst Giovanni Staunovo said.

China's growth has stalled as a collapse in the property market has hit confidence and consumption.

China's slowdown was a factor behind oil producers group Opec+ last week deciding to postpone its plans for higher output until April.

China will adopt a "moderately loose" monetary policy, according to an official readout from a meeting of top Communist Party officials.

BB to keep

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The MPC assessed the current macroeconomic situation, challenges, and outlook from domestic and global perspectives.

Moreover, the MPC focused on reviewing the current inflation trend and outlook, economic activities and growth prospects, recent financial market developments, and developments in the external sector.

The MPC also reviewed the overall banking liquidity

situation, particularly the cashflow shortage of some conventional banks, interest rate trends, the foreign exchange reserve position, and exchange rate developments.

Additionally, the committee was informed about the mechanism of ongoing liquidity support in the banking system by the BB and its sterilisation process through open market operations.

What exactly were global institutions

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if the government compelled them to produce falsified assessments."

He said data on debt is a tricky issue and debt itself is undoubtedly a major challenge, posing one of the most significant challenges at hand.

The debt burden remains a key topic for consideration in the white paper on the state of the economy, said Bhattacharya, who led the panel that prepared the document.

The most misleading aspect was that the past regime presented a fake index for the debt-to-GDP ratio to create a sense of comfort, raising questions over whether or not it was done intentionally.

"It was done to align with the government's development narrative and to make it appear reasonable to secure more foreign loans, suggesting we were in a comfortable zone."

Now, Bangladesh is a de facto defaulter as it has failed to repay \$6 billion. Debt servicing liabilities are projected to increase by \$1 billion annually, he added.

The government must now assess whether it can afford to take more loans. If not, it should begin negotiations with lenders. The interest period and grace period should also be part of these discussions.

Professor Mustafizur Rahman, another distinguished fellow of the CPD, added: "If you consider public and publicly

guaranteed external debt, I believe foreign exchange reserves should also be taken into account."

"For example, in the context of Bangladesh, two years ago, our foreign exchange reserves were \$48 billion, while our external debt servicing was \$2.3 billion. Now, reserves have dropped to \$20 billion, and debt servicing is about \$4 billion."

After Bangladesh graduated from a low-income to a lower-middle-income country, it is no longer exclusively eligible for loans with low interest rates and favourable conditions.

As a result, it has opted for higher-interest loans with tougher terms, meaning debt servicing liabilities will continue to increase.

This will become a major issue for Bangladesh in the future, he added.

The significant depreciation of the taka against the US dollar will further exacerbate the situation since revenue from mega projects is earned in taka but loans must be repaid in dollars, he said.

Syed Moinul Ahsan, professor emeritus of the Department of Economics at Concordia University in Canada, said Bangladesh must increase its tax-to-GDP ratio to tackle the situation.

"The risks are clear. If tax collection does not improve, Bangladesh will face significant challenges in repaying the debt," he added.

Offshore gas

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"I don't know if there was any weakness in our campaigning or if there is any lack in promotional packages or the advertising process," he said, adding that the Bay of Bengal is a "textbook example" of a region with huge gas resources.

Petrobangla Chairman Sarker said the state-owned energy company

needs to analyse why the companies purchased the tender documents but did not submit any papers.

Petrobangla needs to sit with the companies in official and unofficial discussions, he said.

"We will find out the gaps in the process, discuss those with the government high-ups and then re-evaluate the tender documents," Sarker added.

NBR to cut No overnight cure

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"We have issued some statutory regulatory orders to cancel existing exemptions. Some more will be issued later," he said.

However, Khan assured that no forceful measures would be taken.

"We will move only after discussion with traders," he added.

Despite the revenue board allowing significant exemptions at the import stage, the prices of essential commodities have not yet reduced to expected levels, he said.

Khan also said that the NBR was set to observe the National VAT Day today and "VAT Week" from December 10 to 15.

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the past government, he said a section of people considered bribes to be an investment. It was not a political party but a section of people that ran the country without holding acceptable elections, Mintoo said.

He added that an acceptable election is needed to improve the business and investment environment.

He said a special environment must be prepared to attract investment, especially to capitalise on investments that are being shifted away from China. Other countries are attracting that capital because of a good investment

environment, he added.

He added that foreign direct investment has been slowing because foreign investors think Bangladesh is a risky country for parking funds.

Significant discrimination is being noticed in the country's education and health sectors and an elected government can remove such discrimination, he opined.

Mintoo expects the interim government will announce a roadmap to elections soon as all reform reports will be submitted to the government by the end of this month.

The way the government has been freezing the bank accounts of businessmen is not right. Such steps will affect business, he said.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
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Memo No. 35.01.9100.010.07.5/608(ka)24-3981 Dated: 09/12/2024

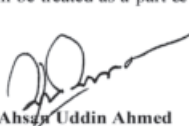
Tender Corrigendum-02

Tender Package No. : 01/PSN/SRC/2024-2025(Re-Tender)
Tender Package Name : Upgradation, Operation and Maintenance of a Real-time Web based Toll collection system of "Fenchugonj Bridge" Toll Plaza at 36th Km of Moulvibazar-Rajnagar-Fenchugonj-Sylhet Road (N-208) under Sylhet Road Division during the year 2024-2025 for 03 (Three) years."


This is to notified for all concern that, the following amendments has been made to the Invitation of Tender Ref. No. 35.01.9100.010.07.5/608(ka)24-3636; Dated: 11.11.2024 for procurement of Non-Consulting Services.

IFT Notice SL No.	Name of Criteria	Published in newspaper/Tender	Amended
17	Tender last selling date	10-12-2024 and 04.00pm	22-12-2024 and 04.00pm
18	Tender submission date and time	11-12-2024 and 12.00pm	23-12-2024 and 12.00pm
19	Tender opening date and time	11-12-2024 and 01.00pm	23-12-2024 and 01.00pm

All other terms & conditions will remain unchanged. This corrigendum notice will be treated as a part & parcel of the tender.


Ahsan Uddin Ahmed
ID No. 601944
Superintending Engineer (C.C.), RHD
Sylhet Road Circle, Sylhet

GD-1146

**Gas Transmission Company Limited (GTCL)**
(A Company of Petrobangla)
Plot no.F-18/A, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar Administrative Area, Agargaon, Dhaka-1000.

গ্যাস জালটির নিরাপত্তা
রোধ করে জাতীয় পরিষ্কৃ পালন করুন

"জ্বালানী নিরাপত্তা
সর্বোচ্চ অগ্রাধিকার"

Memo No. 28.14.0000.231.01.009.24 Date: 10-12-2024

e-Tender Notice

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

Sl. No.	Tender ID No	Name of Work(s)	Tender Document last selling/ downloading Date and Time	Tender Closing Date and Time	Tender Opening Date and Time
01	1042413	Repair and maintenance of Epoxy & synthetic painting and coating works of above ground Pipelines and facilities of GTCL operated AGMS, Dhanua GMS, CGS Demra and Bakhrabad-Siddirgonj (B-S) Pipeline.	29-12-2024 at 17:00	30-12-2024 at 11:45	30-12-2024 at 11:45

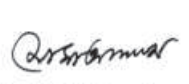
This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

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)

GTPR-18/24-25


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GD- 1147

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www.nsda.gov.bd


Memo No. 03.14.2692.879.14.037.24.552 Date: 09-12-2024

e-Tender Notice

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

Tender ID	Description of Goods	Tender Publish Date	Tender/Proposal Document Last Selling Date & Time	Tender Closing & Opening Date & Time
1049272	Procurement of 02 (Two) Photocopier Machine	10-Dec- 2024	24-Dec-2024 Time: 13:00	24-Dec-2024 Time: 15:00

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tenders, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP Portal must be deposited online through any registered Bank's branches within banking hours as stated on the tender notice. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) (01762625528-31).


Md. Johar Ali
Project Director (Additional Charge)
Strengthening National Skills Development Authority
(1st Revised) Project &
Member (Admin & Finance), NSDA

GD- 1151

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বাংলাদেশ সরকারী কর্ম কমিশন সচিবালয়
আগারগাঁও, শেরেবাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭
www.bpsc.gov.bd

উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা বাংলাদেশ সরকারী কর্ম কমিশন সচিবালয়ের প্রাধিকারপ্রাপ্ত ১৭-২০ নম্বর শ্রেণীভুক্ত (৪র্থ শ্রেণি) কর্মচারী, গাড়ীচালক ও ডেসপাস রাইডারদের শীতকালীন ও গ্রীষ্মকালীন সাজ-পোশাক ত্রয় করার নিমিত্ত দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে। এ সংক্রান্ত পূর্ণাঙ্গ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তিটি বাংলাদেশ সরকারী কর্ম কমিশন সচিবালয়ের নিজস্ব ওয়েবসাইটে (www.bpsc.gov.bd) প্রকাশ করা হয়েছে। এ ছাড়াও পূর্ণাঙ্গ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি কমিশন সচিবালয়ের নোটিশ বোর্ডে পাওয়া যাবে। দরপত্র সিডিউল উপপরিচালক (প্রশাসন-৩) এর অফিস কক্ষে আগামী ২২/১২/২০২৪ তারিখ ৩:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত পাওয়া যাবে। দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ২৩/১২/২০২৪, বেলা ১:০০ ঘটিকা।

কেফাভুল্লাহ
সহকারী পরিচালক (প্রশাসন-৪)
[প্রশাসন-৩ এর বিকল্প দায়িত্ব]

GD-1150