

VAT shock in the middle of the fiscal year

VAT, SD on nearly 100 goods and services raised from today

MD ASADUZ ZAMAN, MAHMUDUL HASAN and SUKANTA HALDER

The National Board of Revenue went ahead with its plan to hike value-added tax and supplementary duty on goods and services despite widespread concerns that the move will stoke inflation and slow down economic activities.

Yesterday, it issued the notification for the new rates of VAT and SD on nearly 100 goods and services. The new rates will take effect today. The hike in VAT and tax in the middle of the fiscal year is

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TAX HIKE (IN %)

VAT	BEFORE	NOW
Biscuit, cake	5	15
Pickle, tomato ketchup	5	15
Restaurant	5	15
Non-AC hotel	7.5	15
Kitchen towel, tissue	7.5	15
Clothes	7.5	15
Sweet	7.5	15
Tailoring shop	10	15
SD	BEFORE	NOW
Nuts	30	45
Grape, apple, melon	20	30
Juice, fruit drink	10	15
Mobile phone use	20	23
Internet	0	10
Imported detergent	20	30
Imported soap	45	60



Families of sacked members of Bangladesh Rifles, now Border Guard Bangladesh, blocked the Shahbagh intersection yesterday afternoon to press home their demands, including freeing those who are in jail in connection with BDR mutiny and the reinstatement of dismissed personnel. The gathering caused traffic congestion in the area.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

3 MINISTRIES Committees to oversee transfer of senior officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday formed three separate committees for public administration, home and foreign ministries to oversee the transfer of officials holding the posts of deputy secretaries and above.

Advisers will lead the committees of which secretaries will be members.

The cabinet division published three separate notifications in this regard.

The move will curb lobbying for transfers, said the notifications.

Usually, secretaries transfer officials up to deputy secretaries. Ministers transfer officials above that.

According to a notification regarding the committee on public administration, a six-

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Government debt now in uneasy territory

REJAUl KARIM BYRON and ASIFUR RAHMAN

Government debt increased 13.3 percent last fiscal year to a record Tk 18.3 lakh crore, raising concerns about repayment amid the low revenue mobilisation.

Domestic debt accounted for 55.7 percent of the total debt stock and foreign debt the rest, according to the quarterly debt-bulletin report of the finance division, which was released yesterday.

This takes the debt-GDP ratio to 36.3 percent, still in the safe territory as per the International Monetary Fund's calculations.

However, economists said the total volume of debt is concerning when compared with the revenue earnings and dollar stockpile.

The main concern now is the liquidity shortage in both local and foreign currency, said Zahid Hussain, a former lead economist of the World Bank's Dhaka office.

On one hand, the government's revenue collection is weak while the interest payment has increased significantly.

"On the other hand, the government is getting fewer foreign loans, which has become an issue for interest repayment and some outstanding bills from those loans. As a result, the government is in trouble," he said.

The white paper on the state of the Bangladesh economy, submitted to the chief adviser last month, echoed the same.

"The trends in debt intensity appear much less comfortable. Debt distress can arise even at low levels when debt servicing competes for domestic and foreign currency liquidity in a shortage situation. Such an experience is still not in the rearview in Bangladesh. A spike in already increasing debt servicing burden is imminent," the report said.

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GOVERNMENT'S DEBT SITUATION (Taka in crore)

JUNE 2021	11,44,296
JUNE 2022	13,43,723
JUNE 2023	16,17,313
JUNE 2024	18,32,282

TOTAL DEBT TK 18,32,282CR

FOREIGN DEBT

TK 8,12,077CR

DOMESTIC DEBT

TK 10,20,205CR



Bangabandhu's Homecoming Day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the historic Homecoming Day of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the architect of the country's independence.

Bangabandhu returned to a liberated Bangladesh via London and New Delhi on this day in 1972, after 290 days of confinement in Pakistan jail.

On March 25 night

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Businesses concerned over VAT, gas price hike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Businesses yesterday expressed concern over the government's move to hike the gas price for industrial and captive users and the income tax for consumer durables as those would further decelerate economic activities and fuel inflation.

Both decisions will also have a negative impact on the already subdued investment scenario, said the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, an association of industrial conglomerates, manufacturers and small and medium enterprises.

The proposal to increase the price of gas by more than double without ensuring uninterrupted gas supply will increase the cost of doing business manifold and create inflationary pressure, it said in a statement.

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BNP files two ICT complaints against Hasina

Accuses AL leaders, law enforcers of killing 2,276 BNP activists in crossfire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP yesterday lodged two complaints with the International Crimes Tribunal against Sheikh Hasina, Awami League leaders and law enforcers over the killing of 2,276 BNP men by crossfire and the enforced disappearance of 153 others.

Md Salauddin Khan, a Krishak Dal leader and coordinator of the BNP's case data information cell, submitted the complaints to the tribunal's prosecution wing over the incidents that occurred between 2008 and Hasina's ouster on August 5, 2024. Lawyer Nurul Islam, another member of the case cell, was also present.

They did not disclose the identities of AL leaders and law enforcers named in the complaint.

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JULY PROCLAMATION Talks with political parties next week

Says Mahfuj; 'govt will facilitate, not issue it'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will sit with political parties and other stakeholders next week to discuss what should be in the proclamation of the July uprising, Adviser Mahfuj Alam said yesterday.

They will also discuss whether the constitution should be reformed or repealed, he said.

He also said the government itself would not issue the proclamation, but facilitate a national consensus over the matter.



The Students Against Discrimination and the Jatiya Nagorik Committee had earlier threatened to demonstrate if the proclamation is not prepared by January 15. Mahfuj urged patience among the students, saying the process would take a few more days.

"The government wants the proclamation to be based on consensus among all parties," he told a press briefing at the Foreign Service Academy.

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35th Death Anniversary

DEATH: 10TH JANUARY 1990

We deeply mourn the death of our beloved mother "Late Masuda Begum wife of Late Mr. Abul Khair, founder of Abul Khair Group (Abul Co.)". Today with due respect, we remember her works, ideals and memories and pray to Almighty for His divine blessings.

We request all our relatives and well-wishers to pray for her eternal peace.

BELOVED SONS & DAUGHTERS

বাংলাদেশ বিমান বাহিনীতে

অফিসার ক্যাডেট হিসেবে যোগ দিন

৯২ বিএএফএ কোর্স (92 BAFA COURSE)

যোগদানের সম্ভাব্য তারিখ: ২৩ জুন ২০২৫

অনলাইনে আবেদনের সময়সীমা: ০১ নভেম্বর ২০২৪ থেকে ০৫ এপ্রিল ২০২৫। * শর্ত প্রযোজ্য

২০২৫ সালের এইচএসসি পরীক্ষার্থীগণও আবেদন করতে পারবেন।

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