

Govt preparing SME policy

The five-year policy to come into effect in July this year

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government is preparing SME Policy 2025 to increase the contribution of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to the economy, SME Foundation Chairperson Md Mushfiqur Rahman said yesterday.

The new policy is currently under formulation, as the 2019 SME policy is set to expire, he said. The five-year SME Policy is scheduled to come into effect in July this year and end in June 2030, he added.

The draft policy includes 10 strategic objectives for developing SMEs in Bangladesh, Rahman said at a workshop on the opportunities and challenges of SME Policy 2025. The event was organised by the SME Foundation and supported by the Economic Reporters' Forum (ERF) at its office.



Small businesses contribute approximately 28 percent to Bangladesh's gross domestic product.

PHOTO: STAR/FILE

SMEs contribute approximately 28 percent to Bangladesh's gross domestic product (GDP) and account for about 85 percent of employment in the industrial sector, the SME Foundation chairperson said.

The foundation is working to help the sector flourish, he said, citing its activities such as holding SME fairs at the national level and supporting entrepreneurs.

He added that the SME Foundation has identified 177

SME clusters across the country and is implementing various development programmes to address the needs of cluster-based entrepreneurs.

Rahman said the new SME policy will play a vital role in increasing the contribution of SMEs to GDP to 35 percent by 2030.

SME Foundation Managing Director Anwar Hossain Chowdhury noted that the contribution of cottage, micro, and SMEs to GDP in Bangladesh is much lower than in some neighbouring countries.

In Pakistan, SMEs account for 40 percent of the economy.

In Sri Lanka, India, and China, the share of SMEs in GDP stands at 52 percent, 37 percent, and 60 percent, respectively, he added.

ERF President Doulot Akter Mala chaired the event.

Brokers request CSE not to open earlier than DSE

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Stockbrokers yesterday requested the Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) to refrain from opening half an hour ahead of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) for trading, reasoning that it may lead to massive fluctuations once the two synced.

The number of stocks traded at the CSE is just 5 percent of that at the DSE on any given day, they said.

Therefore, opening early will just lead to a low number of shares changing hands and limited participation from brokers, they added.

However, this will have an impact on companies listed on both exchanges, adversely affecting market management and investor confidence, the DSE Brokers Association of Bangladesh (DBA) stated in a press release.

The CSE had recently sent a letter to brokerage houses, informing them that it would open for trading at 9:30 am instead of 10:00 am from January 26.

It is "unprecedented" and "unthinkable" for multiple stock exchanges in a country

to have separate trading schedules in the same time zone, said the DBA.

"The same securities are traded on both the DSE and CSE. As trading starts at the same time every day, investors check both exchanges and buy and sell shares according to their needs at competitive rates," it added.

On this ground, the DBA requested the CSE and the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) to refrain from bringing about the change.

M Shaifur Rahman Mazumdar, managing director of the CSE, told The Daily Star that they were seeking to give some extra time for trading to attract brokers to the CSE.

As several brokerage houses have dual memberships in the DSE and CSE, and they have a lack of focus on the CSE, it may attract their attention, he said.

"As we cannot offer any new product due to regulatory limitations, we are trying out different options within our limits. I don't see any problem with separate opening hours," he added.

Summit urges Petrobangla

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and Kamal Hossain & Associates—which confirmed that the termination was invalid under the terms of the terminal use agreement.

Summit engaged with Petrobangla and the government under the agreement to reconsider the decision. The company added that Petrobangla had previously acknowledged receipt of the bond submitted in the form of a bank guarantee, which Summit said offered the same level of security.

"Under the agreement, if any condition precedent was not met, either party could submit a written notice within the stipulated 30-day period. However, Petrobangla did not do so and, therefore, lacks the right to terminate," the statement said.

Nevertheless, SLNG II expressed its willingness

to replace the performance bond with a bank guarantee issued in its name as a gesture of goodwill.

The company highlighted that it has already spent approximately \$20 million on long-lead items, metocean and geophysical studies, and administrative and legal fees for the project.

Petrobangla and the former Awami League government signed the agreement and implementation agreement for the third FSRU on March 30 last year. The FSRU is designed to regasify 600 million cubic feet of LNG per day.

Summit, the largest private-sector power generation and energy infrastructure company in Bangladesh, estimated that the project would require \$550 million in foreign direct investment.

Gold near 3-month high

REUTERS

Prices of safe-haven gold rose to a near three-month high on Wednesday, boosted by uncertainty surrounding US President Trump's policies and a softer dollar.

Spot gold added 0.6 percent to \$2,759.83 per

ounce as of 0941 GMT. The price hit its highest since Nov. 1 earlier in the session and is close to its record peak of \$2,790.15 hit in October.

US gold futures gained 0.4 percent to \$2,771.10.

Spot silver rose 0.1 percent to \$30.89, hovering near a one-month high hit on Jan. 16.

Renewable ambitions

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This is because those plants were awarded without any due tender process by the Awami League government under the controversial Quick Enhancement of Electricity and Energy Supply (Special Provision) Act 2010.

The interim government also repealed the "indemnity act" in December.

Additionally, under the interim government, the National Board of Revenue granted a 15-year tax benefit for investments to establish grid-tied renewable energy-based power facilities, with a 10-year exemption to encourage the bidders.

The PDB has also floated two tender notices till date for 22 solar plants in different areas of the country with a total capacity of 853MW. The tender submission deadlines for those notices are in early February and March this year respectively.

Shahriar Ahmed Chowdhury, director at the Centre for Energy Research at United International University, told The Daily Star that the previous government always said it would increase renewable energy installation, but those words were insincere.

"Renewable energy installation is good for the nation in the long run

as fuel cost will reduce in proportion with renewable use," he said.

Imran Karim, former president of BIPPA, who prepared the analysis, said land scarcity is the main reason solar projects are being held back.

"As a densely populated country, land acquisition is the biggest challenge in implementing renewable projects," he said.

He pointed out another major decision by the government that had caused investors to refrain from joining the tender process.

He said the new tender documents read that the government will not sign implementation agreements, under which the government assures repayments if the PDB defaults.

"That means the companies will only sign power purchase agreements with the PDB. You will rarely find lenders or investors who will agree to invest in a company that they know cannot repay them on time," Karim said.

Currently, the PDB owes around Tk 21,000 crore to independent power producers in overdue payments.

Besides, he said, the PDB sells power to customers for prices lower than their purchase cost or production cost, meaning

it is not possible for them to pay bills unless the government underwrites it.

Karim, also the vice-chairman of Confidence Group, which owns several heavy fuel oil-based power plants, said they wanted to support the government's move towards renewables.

"But when we spoke to multilateral banks and development partners, we found out that they may not finance such projects."

Despite repeated attempts over the phone, Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan, adviser to the ministry of power, energy and mineral resources, could not be reached for comment.

Energy expert Shahriar Chowdhury said the decision to not ink implementation agreements is contrary to the government's commitment to increasing power generation from renewables.

"Fossil fuel-based power plants have been getting such benefits for a long time. If you want to compete with them, you [the government] should support the renewable investors for a certain time till the situation improves," he said.

"We have made very little progress. Government support is needed until the sector can stand on its own feet," he added.

Interest payments eat up more than half of govt revenue expenses

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country's gross domestic product (GDP).

Due to high interest payments, the government's fiscal space has been severely constrained, said Mujeri.

Fiscal space can be defined as room in a government's budget that allows it to provide resources for a desired purpose without jeopardising the sustainability of its financial position or the stability of the economy.

The economist recommended increasing the country's revenue earnings while minimising wastage and curbing corruption in government expenditure, including project implementation.

"If you implement a project of Tk 10 with Tk 100, the burden will be much higher, and it has happened over the years," he added.

The high interest payment gradually arose for the accumulation of loans, said Professor Mustafizur Rahman, a distinguished fellow of the Centre for Policy Dialogue

(CPD).


As the revenue-to-GDP ratio was low, the government increased a debt-based annual development programme (ADP). Now, the ADP is almost fully debt-dependent, he said.

Until the revenue, especially direct tax, rises, this pressure will not be eased, he said, adding that different sectors would receive low allotments if the interest payments continue to rise.

"We have continuously told the government that they should not borrow considering a comparatively low debt-to-GDP ratio, but they need to look at the revenue-to-debt ratio and the situation of foreign servicing to reserves," said Rahman.

Moreover, the project costs were excessive, so the country now needs to pay interest on the excess costs as well. "It is an accumulated pressure," he said.

If debt-related projects cannot generate enough income, they create a burden, which is happening now, he added.



DIRECTORATE GENERAL DEFENCE PURCHASE
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
NEW AIRPORT ROAD, TEJGAON, DHAKA-1215
Web : www.dgdp.gov.bd
E-Mail : info@dgdp.gov.bd

3ND TIME TENDER

1. Sealed tenders (Double Envelope System-Technical Offer & Financial offer Must be Submitted Separately in Two Envelope) in Local currency are invited from Bonafide Manufacturers/Suppliers (Enlisted Firms in DGDP) for supply of the following item for "Bangladesh Army".

Item Name & Qty	Tender Sale	Tender Opening Date	Tender Selling Price	Remarks
Tender No-220.07.192.10.24 Date : 21 January 2025. CA-NIV Cloth TC Rib Stop Combat Printed (Light Green, Deep Green, Brown & Khaki) For PGR (President Guard Regiment) Qty-43,000 Mtrs.	21-01-2025 04-02-2025	05-02-2025	5,000.00 Taka	Currence-Local

2. Tender schedule with detail specifications/conditions will be available on payment as per IT selling rate (Non refundable) during office hour between 0800 hours to 1300 hours. The tender can be dropped latest by 1000 hours and will be opened at 1005 hours on the specified date of tender opening in presence of tenderers (if present).

Major
For Director General

আই এস পি আর/বিবি/২৯
২২/০১/২৫

GD-249

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, সওজ
সড়ক বিভাগ, বরিশাল।
ফোনঃ ০২-৪৭৮৮৩১২৫৪
e-mail: eebar@rhd.gov.bd


স্মারক নং- ৩৫.০১.০৬৫১.৪০৩.১৪.০৪২.২৪-৩৪৭ তারিখ- ২২/০১/২০২৫ খ্রিঃ।

"সেতুর ইজারা কোটেশন আহবান বিজ্ঞপ্তি"

০১। ইজারা কোটেশন নং	: ০১ (ইজারা)/বিআরডি/২০২৪-২০২৫
০২। ইজারার বিবরণ	: বরিশাল সড়ক বিভাগীয় ঢাকা (যোগাবাড়ি)-মাওয়া-ভাঙ্গা-বরিশাল-পটুয়াখালী জাতীয় মহাসড়কের ১৪৮তম কিলোমিটারে বীরশ্রেষ্ঠ ক্যাপ্টেন মহিউদ্দিন জাহাঙ্গীর সেতু (সোয়ারিকা সেতু) ও ১৪৬তম কিলোমিটারে মেজর এম. এ. জলিল সেতুর (শিকারপুর সেতু) টোল আদায়ের জন্য ইজারা প্রদান।
০৩। ইজারা সুক্তির মেয়াদ	: ৩ (তিন) অর্থ বৎসর (১০৯৬ দিন)।
০৪। ইজারা কোটেশনের সিউভিল মুদ্রা	: টাঃ ৫,০০০.০০ (পাঁচ হাজার টাকা মাত্র)।
০৫। জামানতের টাকার পরিমাণ	: উক্ত মুদ্রার ১০% (শতকরা দশ ভাগ) ব্যাংক ড্রাকট / পে-অর্ডার আকারে।
০৬। ইজারা কোটেশন বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	: ১৬/০১/২০২৫ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ তারিখ বিকাল ৫.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
০৭। সুবন্ধ অবস্থায় ইজারা কোটেশন গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	: ১৭/০১/২০২৫ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ তারিখ দুপুর ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
০৮। ইজারা জাকে অংশ গ্রহণের যোগ্যতা	: ডাট্ট ও আচ্চক সনদধারী প্রতিষ্ঠান/নাগরিক, সরকারী/বেসরকারী/ব্যবস্থাপিত সকল প্রতিষ্ঠানের টিকাদার।
০৯। যে সকল কার্যালয়ে ইজারা কোটেশন ক্রয়ের জন্য পাওয়া যাবে	: বিভাগীয় কমিশনার, বরিশাল / জেলা প্রশাসক, বরিশাল / নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, সড়ক বিভাগ, বরিশাল / ভোলা / কালেক্টার / পিরোজপুর / গ্রানিং বিভাগ-১, সড়ক ভবন, তেজগাঁও, ঢাকা।
১০। যে সকল কার্যালয়ে ইজারা কোটেশন সুবন্ধ অবস্থায় গ্রহণ করা হবে	: (ক) বিভাগীয় কমিশনার, বরিশাল। (খ) অতিরিক্ত প্রধান প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, বরিশাল জোন, বরিশাল। (গ) তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, সড়ক সার্কেল, বরিশাল। (ঘ) নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, সড়ক বিভাগ, বরিশাল। (ঙ) জেলা প্রশাসক, বরিশাল।
১১। ইজারা কোটেশন ঘোষণার স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	: স্থান- নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, সওজ, সড়ক বিভাগ, বরিশাল। তারিখ- ১৭/০১/২০২৫ খ্রিঃ। সময়- বেলা ৩.০০ ঘটিকা।
১২। (ক) ইজারা আহবানকারী যে কোন সময় যে কোন কোটেশন / সকল কোটেশন বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন। (খ) যদি কোনও অনিবার্য পরিস্থিতিতে নির্দিষ্ট তারিখে ইজারা কোটেশন গ্রহণ/ঘোষণা না যায়, তাহলে পরবর্তী কার্য বিবরণী একই সময়ে এবং একই স্থানে তা গ্রহণ/ঘোষণা হবে। (গ) ইজারা কোটেশনদাতা কন্ঠায় ও অংকে দুই উদ্ভূত করবেন। (ঘ) এই ইজারা কোটেশন বিজ্ঞপ্তি RHD ওয়েবসাইট www.rhd.gov.bd এর মাধ্যমে দেখা যেতে পারে।	

(Signature)
২২.০১.২৫
(মোঃ নাজমুল ইসলাম)
পরিচিতি নং-৬০২২০২
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ
সড়ক বিভাগ, বরিশাল।

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TITAS GAS TRANSMISSION & DISTRIBUTION PLC
(A COMPANY OF PETROBRANGLA)
"Titas Gas Bhaban", 105, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue,
Kawran Bazar Commercial Area, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh.
PABX: 41010000-4 Extn-144

AMENDMENT/ADDENDUM NOTICE

This is for information of all concerned that, due to Titas Gas authority's decision, some changes have been made in Tender Notice against IFT SL No: (3) PD.2312/404-MECD/TM, dated: 02/12/2024 for Procurement of Turbine Meter with EVC. The details Amendment/Addendum are given below-

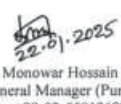
A. Amendment

S.L	Existing Tender Receiving And Opening date	Amended Tender Receiving And Opening date
01.	Tender Receiving date and Time January 26, 2025 at 11:30 AM (BST)	Tender Receiving date and Time March 10, 2025 at 11:30 AM (BST)
02.	Tender Opening date and Time January 26, 2025 at 12:15 PM (BST)	Tender Opening date and Time March 10, 2025 at 12:15 PM (BST)

B. Addendum

S.L	Pre-Tender Meeting (Date, Time and Place)
01.	February 03, 2025 at 11:30 AM (BST), Board Room (3 rd Floor), Titas Gas Transmission & Distribution PLC, 105, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Kawran Bazar C/A., Dhaka-1215. Tenderer must have to buy tender document to attend the pre-tender meeting and 03 (max.) persons may attend for each Tenderer.

All other terms and conditions of the tender will remain unchanged. This Amendment/Addendum notice shall be an integral part of the tender document.


(Md. Monowar Hossain)
Deputy General Manager (Purchase)
Phone: +88-02-55012687
e-mail: dgm.purchase@titasgas.org.bd

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