

40 local firms to participate in world's largest trade fair in Germany

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Forty Bangladeshi exhibitors are set to showcase their products at Ambiente 2025, the largest trade fair in the world, which is scheduled to take place from February 7 to 11 this year at Frankfurt am Main in Germany.

Over 3,694 exhibitors from 81 countries are expected to participate in the fair.

Artisan Ceramics, Protik Ceramics, and Paragon are three of the local companies that will showcase their products in Hall 12.0 at the exhibition premises, according to a statement from the organiser of the show.

Other Bangladeshi companies participating in the event include BD Creation, Dhaka Handicraft, RFL Plastic, Golden Jute, and Star Porcelain.

The event provides an opportunity for small and medium exporters to display their products at the world's largest consumer fair, thereby enhancing their export prospects, as stated in the organiser's release.

For over three decades, Bangladesh has maintained an active presence at Ambiente, contributing to the growth of key industries such as jute and handicrafts.

Banks asked to furnish collateral details of Beximco

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government yesterday asked the banks that financed the embattled Beximco Group to submit information regarding the collateral kept by the group against the loans.

The directive was given at a meeting among the secretaries of some ministries and senior officials of nine banks.

At the meeting, a huge gap was found between the market values of the collateral kept by Beximco and the amount of loans it had taken.

Nine banks -- Sonali, Rupali, Janata, Agrani, IFIC, Dutch-Bangla, Global Islami, Exim and UCBL -- lent Tk 40,000 crore to Beximco's concerns.

Of them, state-owned Janata Bank gave the highest amount, providing Tk 23,285 crore.

A good amount of the loans, including the principal and interest, has soured, said AHM Shafiquzzaman, secretary to the labour and employment ministry after the meeting.

Senior officials from the finance, commerce, labour and other ministries as well as the receiver of Beximco were present at the meeting. Ultimately, it was seen that the value of the collaterals that Beximco Group kept with the lenders was

too low to realise the loans.

For instance, the group kept 75 acres of land as collateral, but the current market price of the land is a maximum of Tk 1,200 crore, which is inadequate considering the scenario.

According to Bangladesh Bank data from November, Beximco owes nearly Tk 50,000 crore in bank loans, more than half of which has become non-performing.

So, the government sought further information from the banks to gauge what basis the loans had been given on.

The most important issue is that some banks have not conducted any audits since 2011 but continued to disburse loans to the group, Shafiquzzaman said.

He added that they had instructed banks to furnish information about the loans at a meeting of the 11-member panel of advisers tomorrow.

At Tuesday's meeting, the advisers may take a final decision on the 16 textile and garment units of Beximco, around 40,000 workers of which were affected after the management shuttered the factories in December last year.

A few banks disbursed loans to the group based only on some documents and without assessing loan proposals, he added. Of the nine banks, a few even took

inter-bank loans to provide funds to the group.

Considering the sheer volume of Beximco's debt, the government does not think it is feasible to reopen the textile and garment factories that were shuttered, Labour Adviser Brig Gen (ret'd) M Sakhawat Hussain said last week.

Currently, three factories are in operation. Since September last year, the government has disbursed Tk 223.43 crore as financial assistance to Beximco Group so that it may pay arrears to its laid-off workers.

The government is now preparing to pay salaries for January although Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed yesterday expressed his reluctance to pay the price for Beximco's misdeeds.

"Why will the government spend for a private company like Beximco Ltd for several months?" he questioned at an event organised by the American Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The government is paying the salaries for employees of the group as if they are employed by the state, he said.

Beximco, one of the most talked-about industrial giants in Bangladesh, landed in hot water following the ouster of the Awami League government in early August last year.

Bangladesh Submarine Cables' profit down 23% in Q2

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Profits of Bangladesh Submarine Cables PLC (BSCPLC) declined in the second quarter of fiscal year 2024-25 as revenues decreased while operational expenses soared.

The company posted a profit of Tk 41.89 crore for the October-December quarter, a 23 percent year-on-year decline, according to a disclosure on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) website.

Shares of BSCPLC dropped 3.55 percent to Tk 122.1 as of mid-day trading yesterday on the DSE.

The company's diluted earnings per share (EPS) stood at Tk 2.24 for Q2, down from Tk 2.91 in the same period a year ago.

The decline was attributed to reduced revenue from international private leased circuit (IPLC) rent and IP transit services, increased operation and maintenance expenses, and a rise in the weighted average number of shares due to the issuance of 2.21 crore new shares to the government in September 2024.

An IPLC offers organisations continuous bandwidth that is both private and secure, providing end-to-end connectivity, and IP transit is where an internet service provider allows traffic to cross its network to reach a destination.

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Foreign loan surge

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and declining foreign commitments is presenting a huge challenge for Bangladesh's fiscal management amid the lower domestic revenue collection.

"The debt-servicing cost was expected as we are approaching the loan repayment since the grace period is ending," said Mustafuzur Rahman, a distinguished fellow at the Centre for Policy Dialogue.

"This will definitely create pressure on the foreign currency reserves.

"Although it will be challenging, we should try to renegotiate in terms of both interest rates and repayment periods. The government is also trying to address the issue now," he said, mentioning recent negotiations with China.

However, Rahman added that a more sustainable route was to attract

foreign direct investment alongside strengthening the negotiating capacity.

Ashikur Rahman, principal economist at the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh, does not believe the burden of debt servicing will pose any risk for the country.

"The debt servicing scenario still does not pose any serious risk as exports and remittances offer a safe cushion that can help the treasury meet its immediate international debt obligations," he said.

As things now stand, payments for the first six months only account for 5.6 percent of foreign exchange earnings from exports and remittances in the corresponding period, which should not be a cause for concern for the interim government, he said.

In the current fiscal

year, foreign exchange earnings from exports and remittances are likely to cross \$75 billion, which means even if debt servicing obligations reach \$4-5 billion, it poses no significant debt default risk for Bangladesh, he said.

Nonetheless, given that the exchange rate is likely to depreciate against the US greenback, the domestic fiscal burden of additional international debt servicing is going to increase.

This necessitates that the Ministry of Finance streamlines domestic resource mobilisation.

However, domestic revenue mobilisation does not offer much hope.

During the July-December period of FY25, revenue collection logged nearly a 0.98 percent negative growth year-on-year.

Grameen Telecom

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reviewed by the central bank's Payment Systems Department, which found that the company had provided satisfactory documentation to move ahead with the process.

As such, the case was eventually forwarded to the then Bangladesh Bank Governor Rouf in December 2023. But it was not approved at that time, central bank officials said.

The Daily Star tried to reach Rouf over phone to comment on the matter, but his phone number was found switched off.

Md Nazmul Islam, managing director of Grameen Telecom and a director of Samadhan Services, told this newspaper that they are yet to obtain the licence despite securing the NOC.

"The central bank withheld the NOC, but we

do not know why," he said.

"Still, we are relieved to have finally received it," Islam said, adding that Samadhan Services is preparing to enter the local market soon as a digital payment service provider.

BANGLADESH BANK'S REQUIREMENTS

The Bangladesh Bank issued a one-year NOC to Samadhan Services, with the company now required to meet several regulatory conditions to secure the final licence. For example, the company has to raise its paid-up capital to Tk 20 crore and maintain it at this level.

The proposed digital wallet company must also implement anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing policies, ensure customer due diligence, and comply with ICT security standards for scheduled banks in the country.

Businesses

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The problems in the banking sector are significant, and the government is working on those. Ahmed informed that there were a huge number of outstanding bills that bankers needed to pay, and the government has repaid those.

"We owed money to many international financial institutions. They almost stopped their petroleum exports," he said. "Some of the ships were given orders halfway into their journey; unless you pay, the ship will divert to the Maldives or Sri Lanka or any other place."

"So, we repaid them, and the outstanding amount has been reduced to only \$500 million or \$400 million," he added.

Ahmed also said, "We have to create a business-friendly foreign exchange

market, credit flow, regulatory regime, and revenue customs tax."

"I sometimes get news that really amuses me. You say the IMF has postponed its meeting to March, implying that money will not be coming. Bangladeshi people have great imagination," he said.

"But that meeting was postponed because there was no scheduled meeting in February," Ahmed added.

The NBR's key performance indicators should also include investment growth along with revenue growth, said Syed Nasim Manzur, former president of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

"We are no longer a colonial country. I think the NBR has a responsibility to drive investment, growth and jobs," he added.

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Power subsidies

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The interim government has formed separate committees to identify loopholes in contracts signed during the ousted Awami League government's tenure, which increased the burden of subsidies, and to renegotiate power purchase prices.

Zahid Hussain, a former lead economist of the World Bank's Dhaka office, told The Daily Star that the government should focus on reducing power production costs.

"The immediate solution is to phase out inefficient power plants and renegotiate prices, which are excessive," he said.

According to Zahid, some power plants' contracts were unfair to Bangladesh, giving producers the leverage to overcharge.

 Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) TCB Bhaban, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215 www.tcb.gov.bd Commercial Section Invitation For Tender (National) for Purchase of (a) 2,20,00,000 Litre Refined Soyabean Oil, (b) 1,10,00,000 Litre Refined Rice Bran Oil (c) 2,20,00,000 Litre Refined Palm Olein, (d) 10,000 M. Ton Whole Husked (Without Husk) Red Lentil.			
1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Commerce.	
2	Agency	Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB)	
3	Procuring Entity Name	Additional Director (Commercial), TCB, Dhaka.	
4	Procuring Entity Code	Not applicable.	
5	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka.	
6	Invitation for	a) Refined Soyabean Oil b) Refined Rice Bran Oil c) Refined Palm Olein d) Whole Husked (Without Husk) Red Lentil.	
7	Invitation Ref. No.	a) 26.05.0000.016.08.510.25.4353, b) 26.05.0000.016.08.510.25.4354, c) 26.05.0000.016.08.510.25.4355, d) 26.05.0000.016.08.510.25.4356	
8	Date	26-01-2025	
KEY INFORMATION			
9	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM) (National)	
FUNDING INFORMATION			
10	Budget and Source of Funds	TCB's Own Fund.	
PARTICULAR INFORMATION			
11	Tender Package No.	a) TCB/Imp-118/ Soyabean Oil/ 2024-25, b) TCB/Imp-118/ Rice bran oil/ 2024-25, c) TCB/Imp-118/ Palm Olein/ 2024-25 d) TCB/Imp-118/ Red Lentil/ 2024-25	
12	Tender Package Name	a) Refined Soyabean Oil, b) Refined Rice Bran Oil, c) Refined Palm Olein, d) Whole Husked (Without Husk) Red Lentil.	
13	Tender Invitation/ Publication Date	27-01-2025	
14	Tender Documents Last Selling Date and Time	Date	Time
15	Tender Closing Date and Time	10-02-2025	17:00 P.M
16	Tender Opening Date and Time	10-02-2025	12:00 P.M
17	Name & Address of the office(s)	Address	
(1) Sonali Bank Ltd. Kawran Bazar Branch, TCB Bhaban, Dhaka. (2) Trust Bank Ltd. Kawran Bazar Branch, and (3) Accounts & Finance Division, TCB's Principal Office at Dhaka.			
Receiving Tender Document			
In front of TCB's reception (2 nd floor), TCB Bhaban, I, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.			
Opening Tender Document			
Board Room, TCB.			
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER			
18	Brief Eligibility of Tenderer	Bonafide Suppliers. Details conditions have been mentioned in the Tender documents.	
19	Brief Description of goods	a) 2,20,00,000 (Two Crore Twenty Lac) Litre Refined Soyabean Oil Packed in 02 (Two) Litre Food Grade PET Bottle. b) 1,10,00,000 (One Crore Ten Lac) Litre Refined Rice Bran Oil Packed in 02 (Two) Litre Food Grade PET Bottle. c) 2,20,00,000 (Two Crore Twenty Lac) Litre Refined Palm Olein Packed in 02 (Two) Litre Food Grade PET Bottle. d) 10,000 (Ten Thousand) M.Tons Whole Husked (Without Husk) Red Lentil packed in 50 kg bag.	
20	Price of Tender Document	Price of (a) Refined Soyabean Oil tender document is Taka 5,000 (Five Thousand), (b) Refined Rice Bran Oil tender document is Taka 5,000 (Five Thousand), (c) Refined Palm Olein tender document is Taka 5,000 (Five Thousand) & (d) Whole Husked (Without Husk) Red Lentil tender document is Taka 5,000 (Five Thousand).	
21	Lot No	Identification of Lot	Location
21	1.	a) Offers are to be made on TCB's Godowns of Dhaka, Chattogram, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Barisal, Moulvibazar, Mymensingh, Cumilla, Madaripur, Jhenaidah, Bogura, Dinajpur, Gazipur/District's godown/Upazila's godown. b) Whole Husked (Without Husk) Red Lentil.	Tender is to be submitted along with Tender Security amounting to: a) BDT 7,82,00,000 (BDT Seven Crore Eighty Two Lac) Only. (In case of partial quantity tender security will be proportionate). b) BDT 4,20,00,000 (BDT Four Crore Twenty Lac) Only. (In case of partial quantity tender security will be proportionate). c) BDT 7,68,00,000 (BDT Seven Crore Sixty Eight Lac) Only. (In case of partial quantity tender security will be proportionate). d) BDT 2,13,00,000 (BDT Two Crore Thirteen Lac) Only. (In case of partial quantity tender security will be proportionate). in the form of Pay-Order/ Bank Draft/ Bank Guarantee must be issued from any scheduled Bank of Bangladesh. After issuing NOA, the awardee is to submit 5% (Five Percent) Performance Security in the similar form of Pay-Order/Bank Draft/Bank Guarantee.
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS			
22	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Md. Golam Khorsheed	
23	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Additional Director, Commercial (Substitute), TCB Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.	
24	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Principal Office, Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) I, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.	
25	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Telephone No. 55014273	Telephone No. 55014273 E-mail: tcb@tcb.gov.bd , tcbinp@tcb.gov.bd
26	Special Instruction	a) All terms and conditions related to the tender and product details are mentioned in the tender document. b) The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any tender in whole/in part without assigning any reason.	
 (Md. Golam Khorsheed) Deputy Secretary Additional Director, Commercial (Substitute) Trading Corporation of Bangladesh			

 Office of the Librarian University of Dhaka Dhaka- 1000, Bangladesh Phone : 9661920-73/4262 FAX : 880-2-55167810 Email : librarian@du.ac.bd	
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উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি	
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০১	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ
০২	প্রতিষ্ঠান
০৩	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর নাম ও ঠিকানা
০৪	কেন্দ্রের নাম
০৫	কাজের নাম
০৬	দরপত্র আহ্বানের কারণ
০৭	IFT নং
০৮	সময়ের পদ্ধতি
০৯	টারকার উপস
১০	দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ
১১	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের তারিখ
১২	দরপত্র দলিল/ সিডিউল
১৩	বিক্রয়কারীর নাম ও ঠিকানা
১৪	দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়
১৫	দরপত্র প্রাপ্তির তারিখ ও সময়
১৬	দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও প্রাপ্তির স্থান
১৭	দরপত্রের মূল্য
১৮	প্যাকেজ বিবরণী
১৯	পুস্তক সরবরাহ প্রক্রিয়া

সরবরাহের স্থান	বিবরণ	সরবরাহের সময়কাল
a) Lot-1: Arts and Fine Art	ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় গ্রন্থাগার	কার্যসেপ্ত প্রদানের তারিখ থেকে ৯০ দিন পর্যন্ত।
b) Lot-2: Science, Biological Sciences and Pharmacy		
c) Lot-3: Law, Earth & Environmental Sciences and Engineering & Technology		
d) Lot-4: Business Studies		
e) Lot-5: Social Sciences		

২৬/০১/২০২৫
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গ্রন্থাগারিক (ভারপ্রাপ্ত)
ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়।