

Integrated automation can fix half of NBR problems: experts

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

An integrated and holistic approach to automation could resolve nearly half of the challenges faced by the National Board of Revenue (NBR), experts suggested yesterday.

In addition to automation, they emphasised the importance of policy continuity, legal reforms, good governance, and evidence-based tax policies to help improve Bangladesh's tax-to-GDP ratio, which is among the lowest in the world, and strengthen tax administration.

Speakers made the remarks at a roundtable on "NBR Reform," organised by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) and the Economic Reporters' Forum (ERF) at the former's premises in the capital's Karwan Bazar.

"We need a comprehensive and integrated approach to automation within the NBR. Fragmented or partial initiatives won't deliver the desired results," said Md Farid Uddin, a member of the advisory committee for NBR reforms.

He underscored the need to integrate the three wings of the NBR—Income Tax, Value-Added Tax (VAT), and Customs—to achieve a seamless and efficient system.

"Implementing such an initiative will require substantial investment and strong political will. Unfortunately, no government has taken

significant steps to this end in the last 54 years," Farid Uddin added.

Echoing those sentiments, another advisory committee member for NBR reforms, Mohammad Abdul Mazid, said: "Automation in the revenue system can resolve 47 percent of existing problems. We will submit our second report regarding automation."

"Besides, our first report, with a recommendation to separate the policy division from the NBR, may resolve nearly one-fourth [24 percent] of the existing problems," said Mazid, a former chairman of the NBR.

Towfiqul Islam Khan, a senior research fellow at the Centre for Policy Dialogue, added: "The NBR is still facing a lack of interoperability among its own wings, let alone other agencies. We often struggle to get information from the NBR. It's not that they don't want to provide it; maybe they don't have that data."

"How can we expect good outcomes from the NBR with these inefficiencies?" he questioned.

He added that the prevailing culture of tax evasion in the country makes it challenging to meet tax collection targets and demotivates taxpayers.

Pointing out the failure to implement Electronic Fiscal Devices (EFDs), Khan said: "Someone must be held responsible, and

appropriate measures should be taken.

"Even chartered accountants must accept accountability for incorrect audits," he said.

"There's a system of bribery that facilitates this. Even if taxes are reduced from 15 percent to 10 percent for VAT, many businesses will still avoid paying. Transparency must be ensured, and citizens must be held accountable."

Regarding the recent hike in VAT and supplementary duty on nearly 100 goods and services, he said: "We don't know the process behind the price increase of 100 items. Policymakers may believe it won't significantly affect living costs, but this message must be clearly communicated to the public. It is currently very difficult to obtain data from the NBR," he noted.

Another advisory member for NBR reforms, Aminur Rahman, thinks the country is losing a chunk of revenue due to two main reasons—the huge underground economy and money laundering.

"If we can't address these two problems, we won't recover from the direct taxation shortfall," he said.

Masrur Riaz, chairman of Policy Exchange Bangladesh, argued that reforms to the NBR would be ineffective without proper planning for revenue utilisation and financial discipline.

Samsung unveils six microwaves assembled by Transcom

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Samsung Electronics Bangladesh has introduced six distinct models of microwave ovens that are being assembled in the country by its local partner Transcom Electronics Limited.

"The new models combine innovative technology with practical features that make cooking smarter and healthier," said Jung Min Jung, managing director of Samsung Electronics Bangladesh.

He was speaking at the unveiling ceremony for these new products at the Amari Dhaka hotel in the capital yesterday.

Jung said Samsung prioritises researching consumer "pain points" and precisely identifying their needs.

Based on these insights, the company incorporates solutions as exclusive features, ensuring unmatched convenience compared to other brands, he added.

The products, themed "Cook Healthy, Live Smart," incorporate unique features

such as Slim Fry Technology, which allows users to prepare fried foods with up to 80 percent less oil.

Meanwhile, the Triple Distribution System ensures evenly cooked meals by distributing heat through three antennas. Besides, the Durable Ceramic Enamel Coating, backed by a 10-year warranty, simplifies cleaning and ensures lasting durability for daily use.

The ovens also include features like Quick Defrost, Deodorization, Browning Plus, Turntable On/Off, and Eco Mode for everyday convenience.

With prices starting at Tk 18,500, these microwave ovens are now available at all Transcom Digital, Rangs eMart, and Electra outlets, as well as Samsung's authorised dealer stores.

The newly launched models include three 28-litre convection microwave ovens (MC28AK, MC28VK, MC28VS), a 23-litre solo microwave oven (MS23AK), a 23-litre grill microwave oven (MG23AK), and a 21-litre convection microwave oven (CE76JD).

Govt may lift ban on aromatic rice exports

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international market, which has now been taken over by India and Pakistan," she said.

Yasmin cautioned that if exports were allowed and then suddenly banned again, it would lead to significant economic losses. "We urge the government to consider this matter carefully. Aromatic rice accounted for 40 to 50 percent of our total agro-processed food exports."

Another exporter, speaking on condition of anonymity, expressed hope that the government would soon grant export permission.

They also expect the export quantity to increase compared to previous levels and believe that the ground lost due to the export ban can be quickly made up.

EXPORT OF AROMATIC RICE

According to data from the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), export earnings from aromatic rice hit \$1.40 million in FY19 before increasing to \$2.88 million in FY20.

However, earnings dropped to \$2.06 million in FY21 before going down again to \$1.07 million in FY22.

In FY23, the ban was imposed and exports plummeted to nil.

However, aromatic rice exports managed to bring in \$0.06 million in FY24.

EPB data also shows that no aromatic rice had been exported in FY25 as of December.

Around 33 varieties of aromatic rice are cultivated in Bangladesh, according to the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute.

Govt's borrowing from banks rises to Tk 16,000cr

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The government has a huge demand for money, which is urgently required, said Fahmida Khatun, executive director at the Centre for Policy Dialogue.

Most public projects are stagnating now, so global donor agencies are not releasing funds, she said, adding that the government's revenue collection had not reached the expected levels due to the disruption of business activities centring the 'July uprising', when a mass uprising overthrew the Awami League government.

However, the economist added that the private sector would not be affected by heightened government bank borrowing since there is little demand for loans among private enterprises at the moment.

A chief executive of a private

commercial bank said the government has been unable to collect as much revenue as it had targeted while the inflow of foreign funds has also slowed, compelling it to borrow from the banking sector.

Ashikur Rahman, a senior economist at the Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh, said net borrowing from the banking sector increased due to dismal revenue mobilisation since FY24.

Even worse, during the July-December period of FY25, the National Board of Revenue collected Tk 156,442 crore, which reflected a 0.98 percent year-on-year decline.

This has only served to increase the government's dependence on saving certificates and the banking sector as it looks for sources of funds.

Textile, garment exporters

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The proposed gas price hike will also affect investment inflow to the garment and textile sectors, the letter read.

The situation will worsen further if gas becomes costlier as capital machinery imports in the garment and textile sectors have already declined in recent times.

In the July-November period of the current fiscal year, capital machinery imports in the garment sector fell by 8.95 percent year-on-year while imports in the textile sector declined by 18.11 percent, according to Bangladesh Bank data.

The price per unit of garment items sent to the US and EU markets fell by 4.24 percent and 4.83 percent respectively in the 11 months to November last year, during which global demand for garment items

dropped by 5 percent.

In the meantime, production costs in the two sectors kept rising for various reasons, the letter said.

In December 2023, garment workers' salaries were increased by 56 percent. In the same month the following year, the government raised the rate of annual increment for garment workers from 4 percent to 9 percent.

Over the past five years, gas prices have risen by 286.5 percent, power prices by 33.5 percent and diesel prices by 68 percent while bank interest rates climbed to 14-15 percent.

These increases collectively caused a 50 percent rise in production costs for industries, the letter said.

During the same period, the government had reduced cash incentives for using local yarn to 1.5

percent from 4 percent.

The associations also said the textile and garment sectors have been severely affected by the fallout of the July uprising, which impacted every sector, including import-export, banking and labour management activities alongside law and order.

The proposal for a gas price hike has been made at a time when industrial units are already facing acute gas pressure, with most textile mills in Gazipur, Mymensingh, Narayanganj and Savar running at 40 percent to 50 percent capacity.

And although the government hiked gas prices by 150 percent with effect from January 2023, industries are yet to benefit from the hike as the supply has not improved, the letter said.

EU exploring cooperation deal with Bangladesh

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The largest trading bloc for Bangladesh, accounting for more than 58 percent of its total exports each year, with zero-duty benefits under the EU's Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP) for Everything But Arms (EBA).

This benefit is expected to be phased out three years after Bangladesh graduates from the group of least developed countries, which is scheduled for late 2026.

Annually, Bangladesh exports more than \$25 billion worth of goods to the EU, with garments contributing nearly \$22 billion.

The EU alone accounts for more than 64 percent of Bangladesh's total apparel exports.

Bangladesh's garment exports to the EU grew 2.99 percent year-on-year to \$18.15 billion in the January-November period of 2024, according to data from Eurostat.

Bangladesh is the second-largest garment exporter to the EU after China.

One in every three EU consumers wears Bangladesh-made denim, a garment category in which Bangladesh has surpassed China in the EU over the last 10 years.

ACI directors raise their stakes

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Earlier this month, ACI Managing Director Arif Dowla purchased 6 lakh shares, completing the transaction on January 20.

Collectively, the three directors have announced or completed purchases totalling 37.15 lakh shares in January alone.

Market analysts view these moves as a strong indicator of ACI's resilience and growth potential in 2025.

ACI's shareholding structure, disclosed in a report signed by Company Secretary Mohammad Mostafizur Rahman, revealed that directors collectively control 36.23 percent of the company's shares as of

December 2024.

Institutional investors hold 41.66 percent, while public shareholders account for the remaining 22.11 percent.

The high concentration of shares among directors and institutions is often seen as a stabilising factor, reflecting long-term commitment and strategic alignment.

ACI, a leader in Bangladesh's pharmaceuticals, consumer goods, and agriculture industries, has consistently attracted both local and foreign investors.

Its ability to maintain steady dividends has also bolstered investor confidence in the company.

For the fiscal year ending in June

2024, the company declared a 35 percent dividend—20 percent in cash and 15 percent in stocks.

However, experts cautioned that high ownership concentration could limit opportunities for smaller shareholders in the company despite its strong fundamentals.

ACI's shares closed at Tk 147.90 at the DSE yesterday, and experts opined that further announcements regarding the company's expansion plans could drive prices higher.

Over the past year, ACI's share price peaked at Tk 192.30 in February 2024. The company has also been incurring losses since the fiscal year 2022-23.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Chattogram City Corporation
Tigerpass, Chattogram
www.ccc.gov.bd

Memo no: 46.11.1600.002.39.25.0212 Date: 27/01/2025

e-Tender Notice -CCC/COS/2024-25/Notice-4

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

Package/ Lot No.	Tender ID	Identification of Lot	Procurement Method	Tender Document last selling Date and Time	Tender Closing & Opening Date and Time
CCC/COS/2024-25/W-02	1037125	Supplying Low benches and High benches for various educational institute of CCC	Open Tendering method (OTM)	11-Feb-2025 12:00	11-Feb-2025 14:00
CCC/COS/2024-25/W-03	1037126	Supplying Furniture for newly relocated office of CCC Revenue circle-2 at Bahaddardhat	Limited Tendering method (LTM)	11-Feb-2025 12:00	11-Feb-2025 14:00
CCC/COS/2024-25/W-04	1037127	Supplying furniture for new Office of CCC Revenue Circle-1	Limited Tendering method (LTM)	11-Feb-2025 12:00	11-Feb-2025 14:00
CCC/COS/2024-25/W-05	1037128	Supplying Furniture for CCC Revenue circle-8, Hazi Abdul Ali City corporation High school and Dr. Zakir Hossain city corporation Homeopathic medical college & Hospital	Limited Tendering method (LTM)	11-Feb-2025 12:00	11-Feb-2025 14:00
CCC/COS/2024-25/W-09	1066772	Purchasing computers and other accessories for digitalization of 8 nos. revenue circles	Limited Tendering method (LTM)	11-Feb-2025 12:00	11-Feb-2025 14:00
CCC/COS/2024-25/W-12	1067654	Supply of stone and sand for repair and maintenance of roads in CCC area.	Open Tendering method (OTM)	11-Feb-2025 12:00	11-Feb-2025 14:00
CCC/COS/2024-25/W-13	1067655	Supply & Store of 1st Class Bricks and P.J Bricks for repair and maintenance of roads in CCC area.	Open Tendering method (OTM)	11-Feb-2025 12:00	11-Feb-2025 14:00
CCC/COS/2024-25/W-14	1067656	Supplying of different type of goods (Monohari) for all departments of Chattogram city corporation at FY 2024-2025	Open Tendering method (OTM)	11-Feb-2025 12:00	11-Feb-2025 14:00
CCC/COS/2024-25/W-15	1067764	Supplying Computers and other accessories for Accounts department of CCC	Limited Tendering method (LTM)	11-Feb-2025 12:00	11-Feb-2025 14:00
CCC/COS/2024-25/W-16	1067776	Supplying Furnitures for officers of Engineering department and Revenue circle-5 at CCC.	Limited Tendering method (LTM)	11-Feb-2025 12:00	11-Feb-2025 14:00

The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject all Tenders.

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the national e-GP portal and offline hard copies will not 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 up to particular date and time specified on the tender notice. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

CCC/PRD.44/24-25 (7'X4 Col)

(Tasmiah Tahseen)
Executive Engineer &
Controller of stores
Chattogram City Corporation.

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি
সদর দপ্তর বর্ডার গার্ড বাংলাদেশ, লজিস্টিক্স শাখা
কিউ এন্ড অর্ডিন্যান্স পরিদপ্তর, ঢাকা

১।	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়।
২।	সংস্থা	সদর দপ্তর বর্ডার গার্ড বাংলাদেশ।
৩।	যে কাজের জন্য দরপত্র আহ্বান করা হলো	অর্ডিন্যান্স প্রযোজী ক্রয়/সরবরাহ।
৪।	দরপত্র আহ্বানের সূত্র	৪৪.০২.১২০৫.০১০.০৩.২৫১.২৪/৬০/কিউ
৫।	তারিখ	২৭ জানুয়ারি ২০২৫।
৬।	ক্রয় পদ্ধতি	জাতীয় উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি।
৭।	টেন্ডার প্যাকেজ নম্বর	E-9
৮।	দরপত্র প্রচারের তারিখ	২৮ জানুয়ারি ২০২৫।
৯।	দরপত্র বিক্রির শেষ তারিখ	১২ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২৫।
১০।	দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১৩ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২৫ তারিখ ১১:৫৫ ঘটিকা।
১১।	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	১৩ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২৫ তারিখ ১২:০০ ঘটিকা।
১২।	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রি	সদর দপ্তর বর্ডার গার্ড বাংলাদেশ, কিউ এন্ড অর্ডিন্যান্স পরিদপ্তর, ঢাকা।
১৩।	দরপত্রের দলিলাদি গ্রহণ ও খোলা	সদর দপ্তর বর্ডার গার্ড বাংলাদেশ, কিউ এন্ড অর্ডিন্যান্স পরিদপ্তর, ঢাকা।
১৪।	প্রাক-দরপত্র সভা (ঐচ্ছিক) ঙ স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	সদর দপ্তর বর্ডার গার্ড বাংলাদেশ, কিউ এন্ড অর্ডিন্যান্স পরিদপ্তর ০২ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২৫ ইং ১৩:০০ ঘটিকা (ঐচ্ছিক)।
১৫।	দরদাতার যোগ্যতা	ক। হালদালাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স ও আয়ের সনদপত্র এক ভাট নিবন্ধন সনদপত্র। খ। টেন্ডার মূল্যের সমন্বিত অর্থের ব্যাংক সলভ্যান্সি এক ক্রেডিট সার্টিফিকেট সনদপত্র। গ। সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজে ০২ বছরের ঠিকাদারীর যোগ্যতা সনদপত্র। ঘ। প্রস্তুতকারকের (Manufacturer) সনদপত্র। ঙ। জাতীয় পরিচয় পত্রের ছায়াছবি।
১৬।	দরপত্র দলিলের মূল্য	ক্রমিক নং ১৯ এর জন্য ৫০০/- টাকা এবং ক্রমিক নং ২০ ও ২১ এর জন্য ৪০০/- টাকা অফেরতযোগ্য ও নগদ মূল্য।
১৭।	প্যাকেজ এবং লটারি পরিচিতি	
১৮।	লট নম্বর	সংক্ষিপ্ত বিবরণ
১৯।	E-9/A	ফটোকপি মেশিন (Toshiba e-Studio 2823AMW with RADF, Multi-Drawer & Trolley)
২০।	E-9/B	ফটোকপি মেশিন (Toshiba e-Studio 2021AC Multifunctional Color Photocopier with RADF)
২১।	E-9/C	পেপার শ্রেডার মেশিন
২২।	২০২৩-২০২৪	অর্থ বছরে বা তৎপূর্বে বিজিবিতে চুক্তিকৃত দ্রব্য সরবরাহে বাধ্য/অসমাপ্ত থাকলে দরদাতা অযোগ্য বিবেচিত হবে।
২৩।	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর পদবী ও ফোন নং	পরিচালক, কিউ এন্ড অর্ডিন্যান্স পরিদপ্তর, ফোনঃ ৯৬৫০০০১-২২৩৬৮
২৪।	সংগ্রাহক সূত্র	যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

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সামঞ্জস্য প্রদান ২৭ JAN 2025
পরিচালক
মহাপরিচালকের পক্ষে
সদর দপ্তর বিজিবি