

Star BUSINESS



Tax haul turns positive, yet daunting target looms

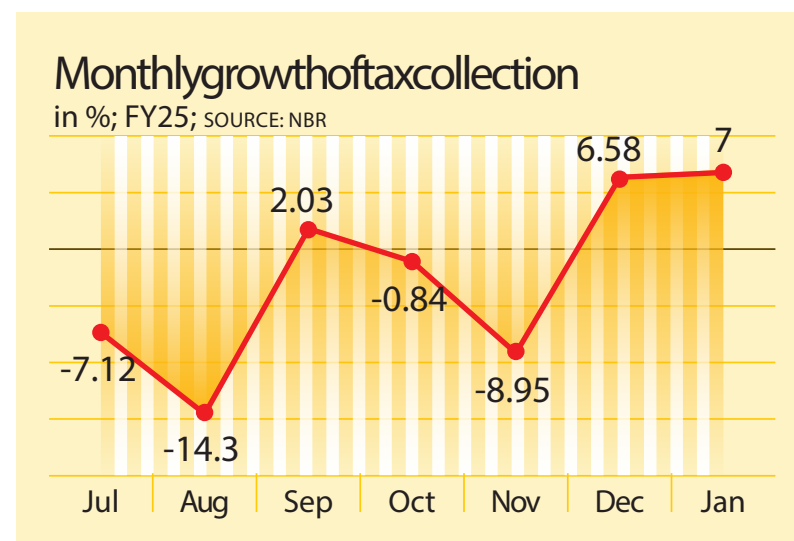
MD ASADUZ ZAMAN

Riding mainly on monthly growth in December and January, revenue collection in the first seven months of fiscal year (FY) 2024-25 returned to positive territory.

However, the National Board of Revenue (NBR) now faces a herculean task of meeting its annual tax target amid ongoing economic headwinds.

Even during stable times, the revenue board has never met annual tax targets. To meet the annual target, revenue collection this year will need to grow by as much as 28 percent in the remaining five months — a goal mired by an economic slowdown and other challenges.

But unlike previous years, failing to come close to the tax target this time could jeopardise budget support from multilateral lenders,



and the fourth tranche of the ongoing International Monetary Fund (IMF) loan package.

In simpler terms, the government is not in a position to make a deep cut to the annual tax target in the revised budget, leaving the revenue administration with an almost impossible

task. Between July and January, the NBR collected Tk 195,860 crore, a 2.96 percent year-on-year increase. All revenue sectors — income tax, value-added tax (VAT), and customs — saw positive growth. January marked the second consecutive month with 7 percent monthly growth.

Despite this, the tax administration remains far from its required 21 percent growth target to meet the Tk 480,000 crore goal.

Multilateral lenders, including the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and the IMF, have been

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Expedite gas exploration, shift to renewables to reduce expenditure

Speakers say at CPD conference

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh should expedite gas exploration and place emphasis on renewable energy to reduce excessive expenditure on the energy and power sector, speakers said at an event yesterday.

To lower energy bills, they suggested the government ensure primary energy before setting up new power plants and renegotiate electricity prices with private power producers.

At the same time, analysts suggested the government strengthen the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission and shape it as the supreme authority in power and energy supply.

These remarks came during a discussion session titled "Building Sustainable Futures: Connectivity and Energy" during a conference on "Recommendations by the Task Force on Re-Strategising the Economy" at the capital's BRAC Centre Inn yesterday.

Presiding over the session, Prof M Tamim, vice-chancellor of Independent University of Bangladesh, said there would be hard times ahead. He added that trouble might start sooner if the production at the Bibiyana gas field reduces.

"We are paying around \$13 billion a year to import all types of energy sources and it may stand at \$20 billion by 2030,

by when estimates say Bangladesh will have more than 90 percent dependence on imported energy sources. Given the way the local gas production is going down, we will be in big trouble," he said.

"If even two or three wells in Bibiyana somehow fail to produce, what is the backup?" he asked, adding that though Bangladesh has committed to an energy transition, there are around 15,000 megawatts (MW) of fossil fuel-based power generation contracts.

He added that the previous Awami League government's aim of generating 40 percent of total power from renewable sources was made without doing any homework.

"We need a comprehensive plan engaging all stakeholders, including engineers of power grid companies. This would help us set a realistic target," he added.

Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan, adviser to the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources, said the government is trying to reduce power generation costs to minimise the huge subsidy burden in this sector.

"We have set up a benchmark tariff with the Matarbari coal-based power plant and will try to renegotiate other coal-based plants accordingly. In the same way, we will renegotiate prices with the gas-fired power plants," he said.

READ MORE ON B3

Is this the right time to hike gas prices?

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

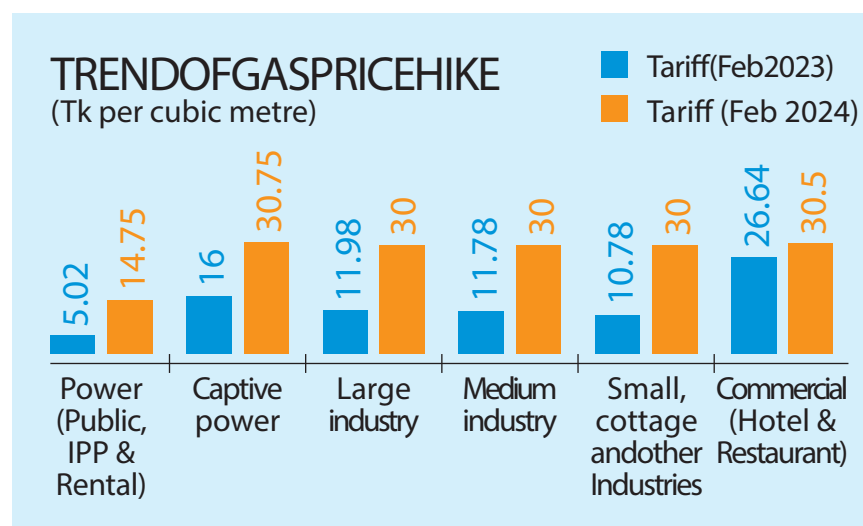
The Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) is going to hold a public hearing tomorrow on the proposed hike in gas prices for industrial use.

In a proposal submitted in January this year, gas suppliers suggested

adequate supply of gas.

However, industry owners complain that the gas supply did not increase, forcing them to run units at half of their capacity.

At the same time, around Tk 10,000 crore worth of unsold yarn has been stockpiled at different mills due to an influx of cheap Indian yarn, which is



SOURCE: BERCDATA.COMPILED BY CPD

the government, through the BERC, hike gas prices by 150 percent for new gas connections and 50 percent for expansion of existing industrial units to Tk 75.72 per unit.

Businesses have expressed concern on different occasions over the issue, saying such an increase would kill industries by doubling the cost of production at a critical time.

The government's reason for hiking gas prices is to minimise subsidies to the energy sector and to cover the import price of liquefied natural gas at higher prices.

Industry insiders say the country is becoming increasingly reliant on expensive imported energy — with estimates suggesting the country will have more than 90 percent dependence on imported energy sources by 2030 — instead of exploring domestic gas reserves.

Industry owners, especially entrepreneurs in the primary textile sector, which has investment amounting to around \$23 billion, said that they are already overburdened by the abnormal hike in gas prices in February 2023, which caused prices to double from Tk 16 to Tk 32 per unit with a commitment to providing an

cheaper due to the subsidies provided by its government.

In case of Bangladesh, the government reduced the subsidy to 1 percent and Indian government gives more than 3 percent subsidy.

Of total gas consumption, captive power plants, including those in the primary textile sector and other industries, use 37 percent, according to data from the Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA), which added that gas prices were hiked by 256.5 percent over the past five years.

So, industry people and economists say that this is not the proper time to increase gas prices as it would not improve gas supply to industries.

Alongside the perennial gas crisis, the industrial sector has been struggling to survive in the face of the severe fallout of the Covid-19 pandemic, Russia-Ukraine war, high inflationary pressure and nationwide political upheaval last year.

A good number of work orders of the garment sector were shifted to neighbouring countries because of the political and labour unrest in Bangladesh last year.

The export-oriented textile and

READ MORE ON B3

Lower gas prices: BTMA

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Textile millers yesterday urged the interim government to reduce gas prices to less than Tk 20 per unit from the current rate of Tk 31 per unit and to bar yarn imports through land ports, reasoning that it was essential to safeguard the sector.

They said they have been operating at half their capacity due to inadequate gas pressure in the supply lines, and were finding it difficult to compete with cheap yarn imported from India.

The requests came at a press conference organised by Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) at Gulshan Club in Dhaka.

The millers warned that if the requests were not met, they might have no option but to ask Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) to run their factories.

BTMA President Showkat Aziz Russell said the capacities of textile mills remain underutilised despite the fact that garment export orders were increasing.

Usually, when there is an increase in garment work orders from international clothing retailers and brands, the demand for home-spun yarn and fabrics also increases, he said.

However, although the work orders are increasing gradually, sales of yarn have not been increasing this time around, he said.

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Prime Bank signs banking solution deal with Artnature Bangladesh

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Prime Bank PLC recently signed a digital banking solution agreement with Artnature Bangladesh Limited, a Japanese entity in Bangladesh.

Shams Abdullah Muhaimin, deputy managing director and head of transaction banking division of the bank, and Takanori Hagiwara, managing director of Artnature Bangladesh, signed the deal at the bank's corporate office in Dhaka, the bank said in a press release.

Under this agreement, the Japan Desk of Prime Bank will provide all kinds of banking solutions, including digital banking, to Artnature Bangladesh.

Wasim Ibne Halim, executive vice-president and head of transaction banking division; Shama Ali, senior assistant vice-president and head of Japan Desk at transaction banking division; and Kohei Kitamura, manager of Artnature Bangladesh, along with other senior officials from both organisations, were also present.



Shams Abdullah Muhaimin, deputy managing director and head of transaction banking division at Prime Bank, and Takanori Hagiwara, managing director of Artnature Bangladesh, shake hands and receive a crest after signing an agreement at the bank's corporate office in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: PRIME BANK

Citizens Bank gets new DMD

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Citizens Bank PLC recently appointed Md Abdul Latif as a deputy managing director (DMD).

Prior to taking over the new role, Latif was serving at Bank Asia PLC as a senior executive vice-president, the bank said in a press release.



With over 28 years of experience in the banking sector, he has developed expertise in various leadership positions at prominent financial institutions in Bangladesh throughout his extensive banking career, including roles as zonal head and head of branch.

He started his professional banking career at National Bank Limited as a probationary officer in 1997.

He previously served at Premier Bank PLC and Bank Asia PLC, working in different capacities.

As a seasoned professional, his diverse experience includes serving as head of several important branches and zonal head of Bank Asia PLC.

Latif obtained his master's degree in management from the University of Dhaka.

Electro Mart organises annual partners meet



Mohammed Nurun Newaz Salim, chairman of Electro Mart Group, poses for photographs with senior officials of the group at its "Annual Partners Meet 2025" in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: ELECTRO MART

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Electro Mart Limited, a local distributor of world-leading electronics brands Konka, Gree, and Haiko in Bangladesh, recently organised an "Annual Partners Meet 2025" in Dhaka.

Over 600 channel partners and associates from various parts of the country participated in the event, according to a press release.

Mohammed Nurun Newaz Salim, chairman of Electro Mart Group, inaugurated the event as the chief guest.

Salim extended his gratitude to the business partners and guests, acknowledging their unwavering support in promoting, expanding, and marketing Konka, Gree, and Haiko electronics products in Bangladesh for over two decades.

He also reaffirmed Electro Mart's commitment to advancing the country's electronics sector, emphasising the group's efforts to manufacture world-class, high-quality, and affordable

electronics products.

He highlighted the establishment of a production facility in Narayanganj, where the company is continually expanding its product lineup.

During the event, Md Nurul Amin, managing director, stated that Bangladesh's electronics industry was once entirely import-dependent.

However, thanks to industry-friendly policies, it is now evolving into a self-reliant manufacturing sector.

He proudly mentioned that Konka, Gree, and Haiko products are now being manufactured in Bangladesh and expressed optimism that these products would soon be exported under the "Made in Bangladesh" label.

A new model of the Konka ice cream freezer and three new models of showcase freezers were unveiled on the occasion.

The company also recognised and rewarded the top-performing local partners of 2024 in recognition of their outstanding contributions.

PRICES OF KEY ESSENTIALS IN DHAKA CITY			
	PRICE (FEB 24, 2025)	% CHANGES FROM A MONTH AGO	% CHANGE FROM A YEAR AGO
Fine rice (kg)	Tk 72-Tk 85	1.29 ↑	16.30 ↑
Coarse rice (kg)	Tk 50-Tk 55	-6.25 ↓	7.14 ↑
Loose flour (kg)	Tk 40-Tk 45	0	-10.53 ↓
Lentil (kg)	Tk 105-Tk 110	0	0
Soybean (litre)	Tk 185-Tk 190	9.33 ↑	19.81 ↑
Potato (kg)	Tk 20-Tk 30	-9.09 ↓	-13.79 ↓
Onion (kg)	Tk 40-Tk 50	-14.29 ↓	-60.87 ↓
Egg (4 pcs)	Tk 43-Tk 45	-4.35 ↓	-3.30 ↓

SOURCE: TCB

Southeast Bank holds 756th board meeting

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Southeast Bank PLC recently held its 756th board meeting at the bank's head office in Dhaka.

MA Kashem, chairman of the bank, presided over the meeting, according to a press release.

During the meeting, the board reviewed the bank's performance for 2024 and held detailed discussions on strategic business initiatives and the 2025 roadmap.

The participating members reaffirmed their commitment to the bank's success and progress, pledging to elevate Southeast Bank to new heights.

Strategic plans were adopted for loan recovery, expansion of non-

funded business, retail services, and the credit card portfolio, along with strengthening technology-driven transaction services, including internet banking, mobile banking, mobile financial services, and agent banking.

Rehana Rahman, vice-chairperson of the bank, and Md Akikur Rahman, Nasir Uddin Ahmed, Md Rafiqul Islam (representative of Asia Insurance Limited), and Md Nurul Islam (representative of Single Click IT Solution Private Limited), directors, were present.

Southeast Bank's remarkable journey of three decades, marked by stable growth and success, reflects the strong trust and confidence of its customers.

Along with this, the bank is committed to continuing its strong and dynamic progress by offering customer-centric services, adopting innovative banking practices, and ensuring good governance.

The bank expressed optimism that it will make relentless efforts to maintain stability and growth in the financial sector by tackling future potential challenges.

Among others, Mohammad Delwar Husain, M Moyeen Alam Firozee, and Md Mozibur Rahman, independent directors of the bank, Nuruddin Md Sadeque Hossain, managing director, and Mamunur Rashid, company secretary, were also present.



MA Kashem, chairman of Southeast Bank, presides over the bank's 756th board meeting at its head office in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: SOUTHEAST BANK

Al-Arafah Islami Bank arranges 417th board meeting



Khwaja Shahriar, chairman of Al-Arafah Islami Bank, presides over the bank's 417th board meeting at its head office in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: AL-ARAFAH ISLAMI BANK

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Al-Arafah Islami Bank PLC organised its 417th board meeting at the bank's head office in Dhaka yesterday.

Khwaja Shahriar, chairman of the bank, presided over the meeting, the bank said in a press release.

The overall business performance of the bank was reviewed, and several policy decisions were made during the meeting.

Md Shahin Ul Islam, Md Abdul Wadud, Mohammed Abu Eusuf, and Mohammad Asrafur Hassan, directors of the bank, were present.

Farman R Chowdhury, managing director and CEO of the bank, Mohd Rafat Ullah Khan, additional managing director, and Mohammad Moniruzzaman, company secretary (acting), along with senior executives of the bank, were also present.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Chapainawabganj
Phone & Fax : 02588-893101, 02588-893102
Email: eenaw@rhd.gov.bd

Memo No: 35.01.7000.454.07.001.25-555(18) Date: 24/02/2025

E-Tender Notice

e-Tenders is invited in e-GP System (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Nawabganj for procurement of following works.

Tender ID	Name of Work	Publishing Date and Time	Closing Date and Time
1079540 e-Gp/Naw/ADP-05/ Road/ 2024-2025	Repair of Pavement from Maintenance during construction of the project "Kashinathpur- Dasuria- Natore- Rajshahi- Nawabgonj-Kansat- Sona Masjid- Balladighi Border Road (N-6)" under RHD Road Division Chapainawabganj in the year 2024-2025 (WP-05).	24-Feb-2025 14:00	16-Mar-2025 13:00

(Md. Nahimur Rahman)
ID No-602340
Executive Engineer (C.C), RHD
Road Division, Chapainawabganj.

GD-506

EDCL ESSENTIAL DRUGS COMPANY LIMITED
395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area
Dhaka-1208

Press Tender Notice

Tender ref.: EDCL (Dhaka)/PUR/PT/2025/62 Dated 24/02/2025

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the reputed construction firms having experience for successful completion of similar works in any single work worth of Govt./Semi Govt./Autonomous bodies/Private Organization during the last 5(five) years.

Name of the Item	Earnest Money	Cost of Tender Schedule	Last date of Closing & opening
Construction of 4-Storeyed Air Compressor Room & Connection with Engineering Building at EDCL, Dhaka Plant. Work Site: EDCL, Dhaka Plant.	Tk.5% of quoted amount	Tk.1550.00/set (Non-Refundable)	Closing: 12/03/2025 at 11.00 AM Opening: 12/03/2025 at 11.30 AM

Tender schedule will be sold from the Accounts Department of Essential Drugs Company Limited (EDCL), Dhaka on payment as stated above during office hours on all working days (except Friday, Saturday and Govt. Holidays). No tender schedule will be sold on the opening date of the tender.

The tender will be accompanied by an amount of Earnest Money as mentioned above in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order from any Schedule Bank of Bangladesh in favor of "Essential Drugs Co. Ltd." without which the tender will be considered as non-responsive.

EDCL authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

General Manager (CC)
Procurement Deptt.
For: Managing Director.

(4 col. x 6)

Dulux launches three products

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Three new products of paint brand Dulux—Dulux Velvet Touch Diamond Glow, Dulux Weathershield PrimeCoat, and Dulux Promise Smart Choice Interior—were launched in Bangladesh yesterday.

ACI Formulations Limited, which obtained the rights to manufacture and sell the products, organised the launching event at Holiday Inn Dhaka City Centre.

Addressing the event, Shusmita Anis, managing director of ACI Formulations Limited, said the launch of the new products was a significant step forward in Bangladesh's paint industry.

"With advanced technology and top-tier formulations, we are delivering solutions that combine beauty, durability, and environmental responsibility," she claimed.

READ FULL STORY ONLINE

Telecom regulator itself being regulated

BTRC chairman says

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) is struggling to implement various initiatives due to a lack of coordination as well as legal constraints that limit its independence, its chairman Md Emdad Ul Bari said.

Speaking at a two-day conference titled "Recommendations by the Task Force on Restructuring the Economy" at BRAC Centre Inn Dhaka, he highlighted the regulatory challenges faced by the telecom regulator.

Although the commission was initially formed as an independent entity, a legal amendment made it necessary for the regulator to seek government approval before making decisions.

This effectively means the regulatory body itself is regulated by the government, making decision-making and implementation difficult.

The conference, organised by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), focused on inclusive economic development through digital transformation and the growth of micro, small and medium enterprises.

Speakers also pointed out that internet costs in Bangladesh remain high, primarily due to heavy taxation. They argued that unless the government reduces the tax rate, internet prices will not decrease, limiting internet access among the general population.

BTRC Chairman Bari explained that the

fact that there are multiple intermediaries in the internet distribution chain significantly drive up costs.

He said internet services reach consumers after passing through several stages, each deducting a substantial amount. This is one of the main reasons why internet prices remain high.

However, he said efforts are underway to simplify the network system, with expected progress by March-April.

He also mentioned that BTRC is currently working on regulating Starlink's potential entry into the market.

Bdjobs CEO Fahim Mashroor, who presented a keynote paper, highlighted that internet usage is significantly lower in rural areas compared to urban regions.

He attributed this to excessive taxes, a complex supply chain, and high data transmission costs.

Monzur Hossain, research director at the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, suggested establishing a dedicated SME bank to address financing challenges.

He said the SME policy mentions a separate SME bank, but it has not been implemented. Government banks have SME divisions, but they are not fully SME-friendly. Given the sector's expansion, a specialised SME bank is necessary.

Hossain proposed that Palli Sanchay Bank could be transformed into an SME bank,

giving its experience in working with small businesses.

However, Bangladesh Bank's SME & Special Programs Department Director Nawshad Mustafa opposed the idea, suggesting instead that the Karmasangsthan Bank be converted into an SME bank.

Mostafa further mentioned that Bangladesh Bank is working to make SME financing easier.

He said SME entrepreneurs can now avail loans of up to Tk 5 lakh taka without collateral, based on their business bank accounts. A related circular will be issued soon, he said.

He also revealed that startups securing foreign investment could receive matching funds from Bangladesh Bank.

SME Foundation General Manager Nazim Hasan Sattar pointed out a major inefficiency in SME development efforts.

Experts at the conference urged the government to revise taxation policies to make digital services more accessible.

Mahtab Uddin Ahmed, president at Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh, criticised the high tax on mobile data and call rates, which currently exceed 40 percent.

"On one hand, we promote 'Digital Bangladesh', while on the other, we impose heavy taxes that discourage digital adoption," he said.

BEA interim committee demands arrest of office attackers

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The interim committee of the Bangladesh Economic Association (BEA) has demanded the immediate arrest of those who attacked and vandalised the association's office.

Mohammed Helal Uddin, member secretary of the interim committee, made this demand at a press conference held at the Economic Reporters' Forum office in Dhaka yesterday.

He claimed that the self-proclaimed and unauthorised ad-hoc committee carried out attacks on 12th and 17th February in an attempt to disrupt the association's election—an incident unprecedented in BEA's history.

Helal Uddin stated that any member of the association can discuss their demands with the current interim committee and seek a logical resolution.

However, resorting to unprofessional means, such as launching attacks or taking officials hostage to fulfil demands, is unacceptable, he added.

Prof Abu Ahmed, chairman of the Investment Corporation of Bangladesh, emphasised that distinguished economists have always led the BEA throughout its history.

He noted that Prof Mahub Ullah of Dhaka University—one of the most respected and widely recognised economists in the academic sphere today—has been requested to serve as the convener of the interim committee, and he has agreed to do so.

READ FULL STORY ONLINE

Tax haul turns positive

FROM PAGE B1
The pushing Bangladesh to increase its tax-to-GDP ratio by 0.5 percentage points this fiscal year.

"Although the July-January collection growth is small, it is a good sign for the economy," said MA Abdur Razzaque, chairman of the Research and Policy Integration for Development (RAPID).

However, he said the overall situation remains unchanged due to transaction adjustment issues, as the revenue board could have received overdue payments during the period.

Similar to Razzaque, former NBR chairman Muhammad Abdul Mazid also termed the growth as a "good development".

"But we hoped for better growth," he said.

Mazid said tax collection usually accelerates during interim or caretaker government periods compared to previous years.

According to Razzaque, the July uprising coincided with the first quarter of the current fiscal year, creating an unprecedented hurdle for the NBR.

Besides, sluggish implementation of the annual development programme (ADP) after the August political changeover and the current contractionary monetary policy have contributed to slow revenue collection, said the economist.

Development spending in the first seven months of FY25 amounted to Tk 59,876 crore, down 22 percent year-on-year, according to the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED) under the Planning Ministry.

"The lower revenue growth is closely linked to the current economic slowdown, compounding challenges for the NBR," said Razzaque.

In its latest forecast, the World Bank reduced Bangladesh's economic growth projection by 1.7 percentage points to 4 percent for FY25, citing "significant uncertainties following recent political turmoil" and "data unavailability".

Inflationary pressures have also hurt revenue growth, as people have been cutting back on consumption for several years.

The NBR's initial Tk 4.80 lakh crore collection target is likely to be trimmed to Tk 4.63 lakh crore. To meet this, the NBR will have to increase collection by nearly 28 percent compared to the previous fiscal year's actual collection.

"Even after the adjustment, the target is still high and might not be achieved," said Razzaque.

Recently, the NBR requested the finance ministry to further reduce the revenue target in the revised budget.

However, Mazid, a member of the NBR reform committee formed by the interim government, believes the NBR should aim for higher growth in the coming year.

"I don't think the target will be reduced," he said.

Mazid said Bangladesh has one of the lowest tax-to-GDP ratios globally, which means there is an untapped potential for tax collection.

"Due to the failure of the NBR, we are unable to collect enough revenue. Nobody is concerned about this issue and even the government does not hold the NBR accountable," he added.

During a pre-budget meeting with stakeholders, NBR Chairman Abdur Rahman Khan acknowledged inefficiencies in law enforcement.

"There is no alternative to enforcing the law to collect revenue. Mere requests or oral discussions will not yield any results," said Khan.

As of February 16, only 39.86 lakh taxpayers, including 13,066 companies, filed their tax returns out of approximately 1.14 crore taxpayer identification number (TIN) holders, despite three deadline extensions.

Expedite gas exploration, shift to renewables

FROM PAGE B1
Responding to a query, he said they would monitor cooling demand during the summer season based on the load of feeders managed by distribution companies.

"If we find a feeder's load unjustifiably high, then we will go for load-shedding in that area," he said, urging people to follow the government's instruction to set air conditioners at 25 degrees Celsius or above.

Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission Chairman Md Jalal Ahmed criticised the keynote paper for focusing mainly on the power sector.

"We are short on primary energy only. The current situation has arisen due to focusing solely on power generation. We have increased power generation capacity but neglected transmission and distribution," he said.

He added that the state-owned gas exploration company BAPEX has surveyed only 5,000 square kilometres, although there were plans in 2007-09 to survey 20,000 square kilometres within a year.

"Offshore exploration was all set and a company won the tender, but they weren't awarded

the work. Gas exploration was not a priority for the previous government and as a result, we don't know if we have gas reserves or not," he said.

Former professor of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) Ijaz Hossain said gas production has been declining since 2017.

"At least 10 drillings should be done every year," he said, adding that renewable energy should also be prioritised.

"It is ridiculous that we are using furnace oil to produce electricity, which costs Tk 25 per unit, when we could harness solar energy at the lowest cost while the sun is shining," Hossain commented.

Lower gas prices: BTMA

FROM PAGE B1
This is because local garment exporters prefer to import Indian yarn, which costs 25 to 30 cents less per kilogramme than Bangladeshi yarn because of incentives the Indian government provides to spinners.

Russell alleged that Indian millers were effectively "dumping yarn" in Bangladesh.

"We are losing value addition and employment in our country. We have already urged the government to stop yarn imports through land ports and keep allowing it through seaports," he said.

"We want to continue trade with India, but not the smuggling in of yarn," he said.

Although local production units are able to utilise 50 percent to 60 percent of their capacity, yarn worth around Tk 10,000 crore remains unsold as of yesterday due to low demand owing to the availability of

the cheaper Indian substitute.

BTMA Vice President Md Saleudh Zaman Khan said gas prices should be reduced to less than Tk 20 per unit from the current rate of Tk 32 per unit so that production units can run smoothly and offer competitive prices.

He added that textile millers were being discriminated against as they did not get subsidies at levels provided to many other sectors.

He said the government provides gas to CNG refuelling stations, power plants and tea estates at low prices but maintains high prices in the textile sector.

Khan also explained why yarn imports through the four land ports—namely Benapole, Bhomra, Sona Masjid and Banglabandha—should be stopped, saying they were ill-equipped in terms of testing and necessary infrastructure.

However, he also opined that yarn imports over the sea should continue.

Is this the right time

FROM PAGE B1
garment sectors are also facing a working capital shortfall owing to the devaluation of the taka against the US dollar and a shortage of US dollars in the banking system.

Moreover, the bank interest rate varies between 15 percent to 16 percent, making capital harder to access.

Anwar ul Alam Chowdhury, president of the Bangladesh Chamber of Industries, said if there is no growth in industries, they ultimately fall sick. The proposed price hike will not be viable now as the industries are going through a tough time, he added.

Khondaker Golam Moazzem, research director at the Centre for Policy Dialogue, echoed Chowdhury's views.

Moazzem said incidents of gas leaks are also higher in Bangladesh, which indicates that the sector lacks governance.

The gas price hike may not increase the gas supply, he said adding that

even hiking prices may not be enough to end the crisis. So, it is a lame excuse that LNG supply will be increased by hiking the gas price, he said.

Masrur Reaz, chairman of the Policy Exchange of Bangladesh said the textile, garment and steel sectors will be hit hardest by the price hike.

He also believed the gas supply may not increase even prices are hiked.

Razeeb Haider, managing director of Outpace Spinning Mills Ltd, urged the government to explore gas in order to reduce the dependence on expensive imported LNG.

In the upcoming fiscal year, which begins on July 1, the subsidy allocation is likely to be Tk 12,000 crore, up from Tk 100,174 crore in the outgoing fiscal year.

The power sector is likely to get Tk 42,000 crore in FY25. The government had earmarked Tk 35,000 crore in FY24. Before FY22, the subsidy allocation for the power sector was between Tk 7,000 crore and Tk 9,000 crore.

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উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার (সরবরাহ) এর কার্যালয়
চট্টগ্রাম মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ, চট্টগ্রাম

উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি: ০৬/২০২৪-২৫

এতদ্বারা সিএমপি'র রেশন স্টোরে ২০২৪-২০২৫ অর্থ বছরের ৪র্থ কোয়ার্টার (০১লা এপ্রিল/২০২৫খ্রি. হতে ৩০শে জুন/২০২৫খ্রি. পর্যন্ত)-এর জন্য (ক) দেশীয় ছোট দানার উন্মুক্তমানের ১,৩৫,০০০(এক লক্ষ পঁয়ষট্টি হাজার) কেজি "মডার ডাল" ক্রয় ও (খ) প্রাস্টিক কন্টেইনার/পাণের মাধ্যমে উন্নত ব্রান্ডের ১,৩০,০০০ (এক লক্ষ ত্রিশ হাজার) লিটার "সয়াবিন তেল" ক্রয় এবং (গ) রেশন স্টোরে ব্যবহৃত/রক্ষিত খালি চট ও প্রাস্টিক বস্তা বিক্রয়ের জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় ঘোষণাসম্পন্ন দরপত্রাদাওপাশের নিকট হতে সিলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে -

ক্র. নং	বিস্তারিত বিবরণ	দরপত্রের বিষয়	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য (অফের্থযোগ্য)	দরপত্রের সাথে দরপত্র জ্ঞানাত (ফেরতযোগ্য)	সময়সীমা
১.	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়/অননিরাপত্তা বিভাগ			
২.	সহায়	বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ			
৩.	মাল্যায়াল ক্রয়কারী কর্তৃপক্ষ	পুলিশ কমিশনার, সিএমপি, চট্টগ্রাম			
৪.	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের সর্বশেষ তারিখ	১৮/০৩/২০২৫খ্রি., বিকাল ১৬.০০ টা পর্যন্ত (অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত)			
৫.	দরপত্র গ্রহণের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১৯/০৩/২০২৫খ্রি., সময়- দুপুর ১১.০০ টা পর্যন্ত			
৬.	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	১৯/০৩/২০২৫খ্রি., সময়- দুপুর ১১.৩০ টা			
৭.	ব্যাংক ও অর্থের উৎস	জিওবি (রক্ষা)			
৮.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের নাম ও ঠিকানা	মোঃ তারেক আহমেদ, উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার (সরবরাহ), সিএমপি, চট্টগ্রাম			
৯.	দরপত্র খোলার নম্বর	উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার (সরবরাহ), সিএমপি, চট্টগ্রাম-এর দামপাড়ার পুলিশ লাইনস্ অফিস কক্ষ			
১০.	দরপত্রের যোগ্যতা ও দরপত্রের সাথে সংযুক্ত প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্রাদি	দরপত্রের সাথে হালনাগাদ নিম্নবর্ণিত কাগজপত্রাদির সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি দাখিল করতে হবে - ক) ব্যবসায়িক ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, খ) অ্যাকর পরিশোধের সনদপত্র, গ) ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশননম্বর পরিশোধের হালনাগাদ সনদপত্র, ঘ) ব্যাংক কর্তৃক আর্থিক স্বচ্ছতার প্রত্যয়নপত্রসহ দরপত্র দাখিলের পূর্ববর্তী ০৬(ছয়) মাসের ব্যাংকের সাথে সনদের স্টেটমেন্ট, ঙ) এনআইডি কার্ড, চ) ছবিসহ ফর্মের মালিকানার হস্তফরাদাও কপি এবং প্রতিনিধির ক্ষেত্রে ছবিসহ প্রাধিকারপত্র, ছ) মডার ডালের ক্ষেত্রে এমিকালারায়াল লাইসেন্স, (জ) সিডিউলের বর্ণিত অন্যান্য যোগ্যতা বা কাগজপত্রাদি। উল্লেখ্য যে, খালি বস্তার সিডিউল ক্রয়ের ক্ষেত্রে শুধু এনআইডি কার্ড, ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, অ্যাকর ও ভ্যাট সনদপত্র লাগবে।			
১১.	সিডিউল প্রাপ্তির স্থান	(ক) সিএমপি রেশন স্টোর, প্রশাসনিক ভবন, রিজার্ভ অফিস, নীচ তলা, দামপাড়া পুলিশ লাইনস্, চট্টগ্রাম (খ) পুলিশ সুপার, চট্টগ্রাম-এর বোলশহরস্থ কার্যালয় (গ) জেলা প্রশাসক, চট্টগ্রাম-এর কার্যালয়			
১২.	দরপত্র গ্রহণকারী অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	(ক) উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার (সরবরাহ), সিএমপি, চট্টগ্রাম-এর দামপাড়ার পুলিশ লাইনস্ কার্যালয় (খ) পুলিশ সুপার, চট্টগ্রাম-এর বোলশহরস্থ কার্যালয়			
১৩.	দরপত্র গ্রহণ/মূল্যায়ন	সিপিএ-২০০৬ ও সিপিআর-২০০৮ এর সর্বশেষ সংশোধনসহ সংশ্লিষ্ট আইন ও দরপত্র দলিল অনুযায়ী			
১৪.	ক্রয়/বিক্রয়ের বিবরণ				

বিঃদ্র. : দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শাতে ব্যতিক্রমে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করেন। উল্লেখ্য যে, কোন কারণে দরপত্র উন্মুক্তকরণের দিন অফিস বন্ধ থাকলে পরবর্তী অফিস খোলার দিন স্বাসময়ে স্টোর উন্মুক্ত করা হবে।

(মোঃ তারেক আহমেদ)
বিপি-৭২০৫১২৪২৯৮
উপ-পুলিশ কমিশনার (সরবরাহ)
অতিরিক্ত ডিআইজি পদে পদোন্নতিসহ
পক্ষে পুলিশ কমিশনার
চট্টগ্রাম মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ
চট্টগ্রাম

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
District: Noakhali
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No-46.02.7500.000.07.007.24-679
Dated: 23/02/2025.

Invitation for Tenders (IFT for Works)
e-Tender Notice No-71/2024-25

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of works as stated as below:

Sl No	Tender ID No	Procurement Method	Name of Works	Last Selling Date & Time	Last Date & Time of Tender Security Submission	Closing & Opening Date & Time
1	1078517	LTM	IRIDP-3/NOA/SDW-167 Improvement of Kabirhat Korombox connecting road Boktarunmesha GPS road at Ch. 00-500 m. (R. ID. 475905191) under Kabirhat Upazila Dist: Noakhali.	12-03-2025 16:00pm	13-03-2025 13:00pm	13-03-2025 14:00pm

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender 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. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

(Sheikh Mahfuzul Hossain)
Executive Engineer
Phone: 0233443826
E-mail: sen.noakhali@lged.gov.bd

GD-500

Stocks rally for third day

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The indices of the stock market in Bangladesh rose for the third consecutive trading day yesterday, with turnover also increasing compared to the previous session.

The DSEX, the key index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), gained 10.57 points, or 0.20 percent, before closing at 5,234 yesterday.

The other two indices of the country's premier bourse also witnessed a similar rising trend, with the DSES index for Shariah-based firms gaining 0.25 percent to reach 1,169 points, and the DS30 index for blue-chip stocks going up by 0.28 percent to 1,926.

Among the traded securities, 173 saw an increase in prices, 153 closed lower, and the remaining scripts showed no price movement.

The day's turnover increased by 11.63 percent to Tk 544 crore compared to the previous trading session. The textile sector dominated the market activities, accounting for 20.13 percent of the total turnover.

In the individual company category, Kattali Textile topped the gainers' list, rising by 9 percent, while Khulna Printing & Packaging saw the largest drop, falling by 5 percent.

Orion Infusion Limited emerged as the most-traded share, with a turnover of Tk 16.7 crore.

The non-bank financial institutions (NBFI), paper and printing, and textile sectors were the top three sectors that closed in positive territory, according to UCB Stock Brokerage's daily market update.

Life insurance, mutual funds, and telecom were the top three sectors that closed in the negative.

RMG exports grow 18% in Oct-Dec

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh's readymade garments (RMG) industry has continued to expand despite global economic challenges and domestic labour unrest following the fall of the Awami League government last August, according to the latest Bangladesh Bank (BB) report.

Export earnings for the October-December period of fiscal year 2024-25 (FY25) stood at \$10.36 billion, marking a 9 percent increase from the previous quarter.

Year-on-year, it was a growth of 18.6 percent.

"This growth was attributed to the rebound of economic activities in advanced economies along with the peak holiday shopping season in Western markets," said the central bank's quarterly review of RMG released yesterday.

Major US and European retailers typically increase their orders to meet consumer demand, it said.

The report said the apparel sector faced inflationary pressure, disruptions to supply chains, fluctuating fuel prices, and rising transportation costs. However, demand from key export markets remained strong.

Last year, the local garment sector witnessed demonstrations, national election-related movements, factory closures and production halts amid massive labour unrest after the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led administration on August 5.

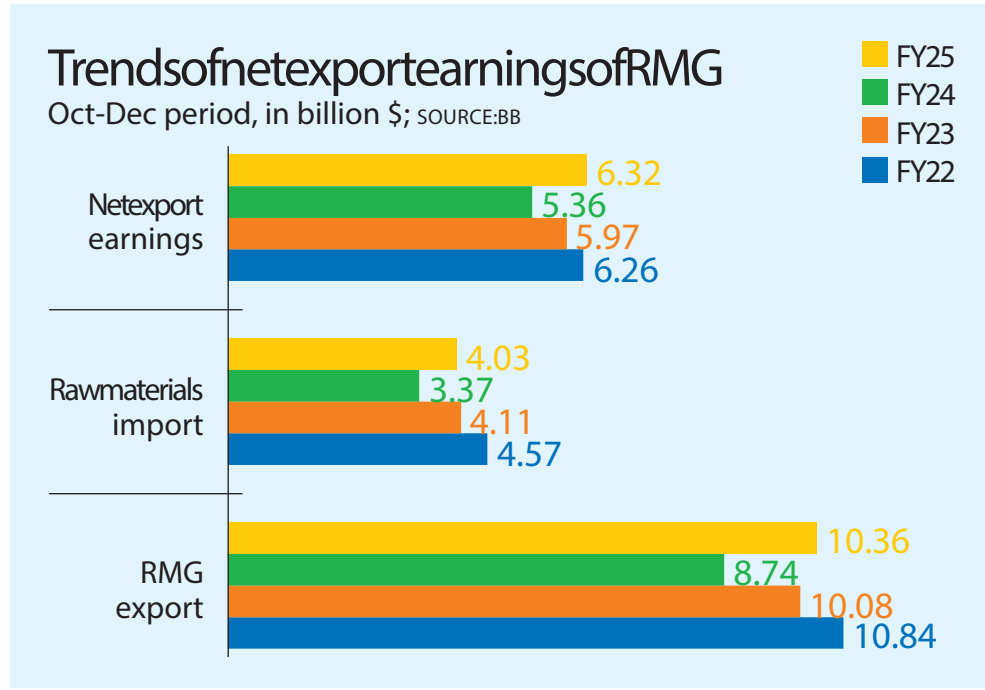
Goods shipment was severely affected in July, August, September and October due to a student-led mass movement culminating in Awami League's ouster and widespread labour unrest demanding wage hikes and an end to workplace discrimination.

On the international front, high inflation has persisted over the past few years because of the far-reaching implications of the Russia-Ukraine war that began just after the pandemic, affecting consumer demand.

But Western economies have been rebounding gradually with rising demand, for which retail sales have also been growing with the clearance of inventories of previous years in Europe and the US.

"Over the years, Bangladesh has established itself as one of the world's leading apparel manufacturers," it said.

"The growth of this sector can be attributed to competitive labour costs and a robust supply chain network," the report



added. The RMG sector contributed 11.68 percent to the gross domestic product (GDP) during the quarter.

The BB report said nine countries -- namely the US, Germany, the UK, Spain, France, the Netherlands, Italy, Canada, and Belgium -- were the primary destinations for Bangladesh's RMG exports.

These countries enabled roughly 70 percent of total RMG earnings in the second quarter of FY25.

Earnings from these markets increased by 7.13 percent compared to the preceding quarter.

Of the shipments, knitwear exports grew by 2.61 percent quarter-on-quarter to \$5.48 billion.

The growth was 18 percent compared to the same quarter of the previous year, driven by strong demand from the US and European Union.

Woven garment exports rose by 17.23 percent to \$4.88 billion, supported by increased consumer spending in the European and US markets.

The BB report said woven garment exports experienced notable growth, leading to a resurgence in consumer spending in major

markets, particularly in Europe and the US.

"This uptick was influenced by economic recoveries and a renewed interest in apparel. Moreover, a competitive edge through cost-effective production has been maintained, offering quality woven garments at attractive prices," it said.

The report said the RMG sector continues to be affected by supply chain disruptions and increased raw material costs.

The import value of raw materials such as cotton, synthetic fibres, yarn, and textile fabrics reached \$4.03 billion in the second quarter of FY25, accounting for 39 percent of total RMG export earnings.

Net export earnings stood at \$6.32 billion, a 12.67 percent rise from the previous quarter.

The BB report said Bangladesh's RMG sector demonstrated strong resilience and steady growth during the October-December period of FY25, driven by increased global demand and production efficiency.

"Looking ahead, the significant performance of the RMG sector will be reaffirmed during the whole of FY25, setting a positive outlook for the coming years and positioning Bangladesh as a leading apparel exporter on the global stage," the report said.

CPA threatens hiking storage charge fourfold if yards are not cleared of Ramadan imports

DWAIPAYAN BARUA, Ctg

Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) has threatened hiking fourfold its container storage charge if consignees do not speed up the rate at which they take away imports by March 9.

The announcement came after the CPA found around 78 percent of its storage capacity occupied by import-laden containers just days ahead of Ramadan.

CPA Secretary Md Omar Faruk said the decision was taken to change the practices of some importers who take a lot of time in receiving their import-laden containers from the port yard.

A notice regarding the move was issued by the CPA director (traffic) on February 20 highlighting issues faced at the Chattogram port's yards and Kamalapur inland container depot (ICD) in Dhaka.

In the notice, the port authority urged importers to hasten taking deliveries of containers, otherwise the higher rates would be slapped from March 10.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, a senior official of the port's traffic department said some fully loaded containers, meaning those occupied by a single importer's goods, had been lying at the port for more than 21 days after being unloaded from ships.

"Every year ahead of Ramadan, many importers who bring in large amounts of essentials keep their imports at the port for extended periods eyeing the Ramadan market. They use the port yards as warehouses," he said.

"They try to take delivery of imports after finding the market prices favourable," he also said.

However, such piling up of import containers disrupts regular port operations and leads to congestion, the official added.

Meanwhile, berth operators said the port has seen a rise in commodity imports ahead of Ramadan, while daily deliveries of a portion of import-laden containers have slowed over the past few weeks.

This has led to an increase in such containers at designated storage spaces.

The number of fully loaded containers at the port has reached 31,384 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units), nearly 78 percent of the port's storage capacity of 40,368 TEUs.

For smooth operations, berth operators usually prefer that 40 percent of the yard capacity remain vacant. To avoid congestion, the CPA in its notice urged importers to collect their imports quickly.

Failure to do so would result in storage rents four times higher than usual, starting from the fifth day after unloading, following the first four-day free period, said the port authority.

READ FULL STORY ONLINE

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE WINNERS OF DIGITAL MARKETING AWARD 2024

Company Name	Grand Prix	Gold	Silver	Bronze
ADA	1			
Analyzen Bangladesh Limited	1	2	2	
Asiatic Marketing Communications Limited		3		
Asiatic Marketing Communications Limited and Asiatic Mindshare Limited	1			
Asiatic Mindshare Limited		2	7	
bKash Limited				6
bKash Limited X FCB Bitopi			1	
Bread and Butter		1	2	
Dot Birth Limited		1	1	
Duckpeon Digital				1
FCB Bitopi		1	4	
Grey Advertising Bangladesh Limited			2	4
Lie To Eye			3	1
Madmen Digital				1
Mediacom Limited			4	6
Mpower Bangladesh				1
Starcom Bangladesh		1	2	3
Starcom Bangladesh and Backpage PR				2
The Bridge Interactive Limited				1
Walton Hi-Tech Industries PLC				1
Wavemaker Bangladesh				1
Webable Digital		1	1	2

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