

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.

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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,

given 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.

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Tax haul turns positive

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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.

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

Expedite gas exploration, shift to renewables

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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.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
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 পঁয়তাল্লিশ 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	দরপত্রের বিষয়	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য (অফের্থযোগ্য)	দরপত্রের সাথে দরপত্র জ্ঞানাত (ফেরতযোগ্য)	সময়সীমা
০১	উন্নতমানের ছোট দানার "মডার ডাল" ক্রয়	১,৫০০/- (এক হাজার পাঁচশত) টাকা মাত্র	৫,৫০,০০০/- (পাঁচ লক্ষ পঞ্চাশ হাজার) টাকা	০১/০৪/২০২৫খ্রি. হতে ৩০/০৬/২০২৫খ্রি. পর্যন্ত (০৩ মাস)
০২	উচ্চমানের সয়াবিন তেল (ব্র্যান্ডের)	১,৫০০/- (এক হাজার পাঁচশত) টাকা মাত্র	৭,০০,০০০/- (সাত লক্ষ) টাকা	০১/০৪/২০২৫খ্রি. হতে ৩০/০৬/২০২৫খ্রি. পর্যন্ত (০৩ মাস)
০৩	রেশন স্টোরে ব্যবহৃত/রক্ষিত খালি চট ও প্রাস্টিক বস্তা সর্বোচ্চ সারে বিক্রয়	৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা মাত্র	২৫,০০০/- (পঁচিশ হাজার) টাকা	৩০/০৬/২০২৫খ্রি. পর্যন্ত (০৩ মাস)

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 বোলার দিন ব্যতীত সন্ধ্যা ৬টা পর্যন্ত উন্মুক্ত করা হবে।

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

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GD-500