



# BUSINESS



## NBR launches five-year Customs Strategic Plan

### STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has prepared the Customs Strategic Plan (CSP) 2024-2028, aiming to facilitate trade, enhance revenue collection, and modernise its operations to support businesses and economic growth.

The five-year plan, structured around the four key pillars of revenue management, trade facilitation, border security, and organisational development, sets clear targets and timelines to drive efficiency in customs administration.

"This comprehensive plan reflects the country's unwavering commitment to fostering a business-friendly environment and bolstering the trading community to drive economic growth," Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed said in the report.

The new CSP aims to fully implement the Bangladesh Single Window (BSW) by 2027, integrating customs systems with port authorities, transport logistics, the tax administration and stakeholders engaged in international commerce.

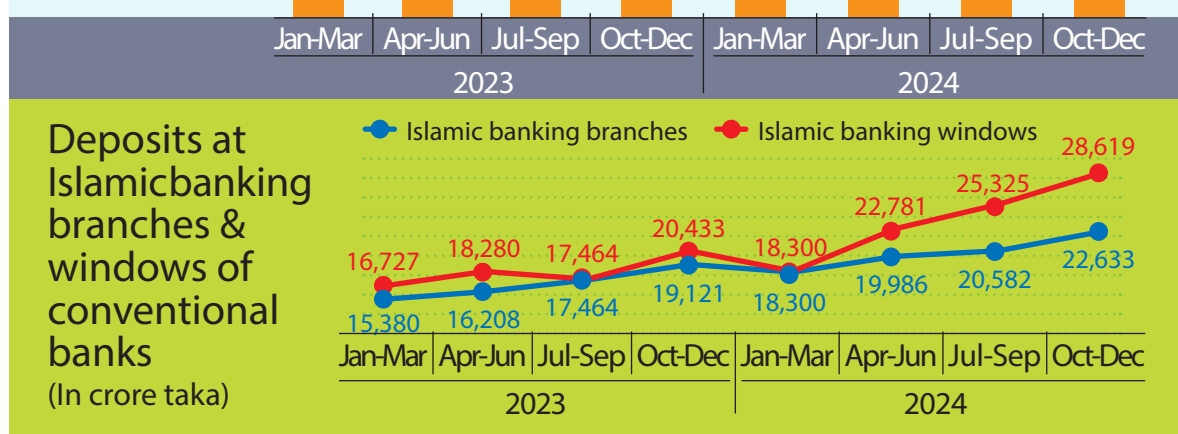
The plan targets to integrate participating agencies into the BSW system by late 2025, develop and operationalise all modules by mid-2027, and reach full-scale implementation by the end of 2027.

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## Islamic bank deposits fall again on fragile confidence

### Deposits at full-fledged Islamic banks (In crore tk)

SOURCE: BB



### Deposits at Islamic banking branches & windows of conventional banks (In crore taka)

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Depositors continued to move their funds out of full-fledged Islamic banks in the October-December

period last year, a sign that many savers have yet to regain confidence in the Shariah-compliant banks due to alleged irregularities.

In contrast, conventional banks with Islamic banking branches and windows recorded an increase in the flow of funds during the period, according to Bangladesh Bank's (BB)

quarterly report on Islamic banking in Bangladesh.

The report, released yesterday, showed that deposits at the 10 full-fledged Islamic banks declined to Tk 388,507 crore, the lowest since the April-June 2023 period.

This marked the second consecutive quarter that fully Shariah-compliant banks experienced fund withdrawals. As a result, overall deposits at these banks dropped by 4 percent year-on-year from Tk 403,850 crore in the October-December 2023 period.

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Motasem Billah

## Nagad gets new administrator

### STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Bangladesh Bank (BB) yesterday appointed a new administrator for Nagad, a mobile financial service provider mired in scandal, following the resignation of the previous administrator, M u h a m m a d Badiuzzaman Dider.

Dider was appointed as Nagad's administrator on August 21 last year amid allegations of irregularities in its operations.

He resigned after being injured by an attack by unidentified miscreants on February 12. The attackers also vandalised his vehicle with hammers, causing injuries to his chauffeur.

Motasem Billah, who previously served as director of the Bangladesh Bank's Chattogram office, will be the new administrator of the mobile financial services provider, according to an order issued by the central bank.

On the day Dider came under attack, a team from the Anti-Corruption Commission conducted a drive at Nagad's office.

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## Foreign loan commitments drop sharply

### STAR BUSINESS REPORT

There has been a sharp decline in loans commitments by foreign sources to Bangladesh in the first seven months of fiscal year 2024-25, raising concerns about development funding.

As key lenders remain cautious, economic stability, infrastructure projects, and overall national growth could potentially be impacted.

According to the latest data from the Economic Relations Division (ERD), commitments for a total of \$2.35 billion in foreign loans were made between July 2024 and January this year.

In stark contrast, development partners had pledged \$7.17 billion in loans and grants in the same period of the previous fiscal year, meaning there has been a decline of around 67 percent.

This is mainly due to a sharp fall in assurances for project assistance in the latest seven-month period.

However, there were significant variations in the assurances from different development partners, with some of the major ones reducing their pledges while others continued to support Bangladesh's development needs.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) committed the highest amount, pledging \$700 million, during the period while the International Development Association (IDA), a wing of the World Bank, also made a significant commitment of \$944.5 million.

However, some key lenders, including India, China, and Russia, have not made any new commitments during this period.

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## Five firms honoured at EBL climate awards



Award winners pose for photographs with guest and dignitaries at the "EBL Climate Change Action Awards 2025", organised by Eastern Bank PLC, in partnership with the German, French, and Danish embassies in Bangladesh, at the InterContinental Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

### STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Five enterprises and organisations were honoured at the EBL Climate Change Action Awards 2025 for their outstanding contributions to addressing climate challenges in Bangladesh.

The Eastern Bank PLC (EBL), in partnership with German, French, and Danish embassies in Bangladesh, hosted the inaugural edition of the awards.

Bangladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur handed over the crests to the winners in five distinct categories as the chief guest at the event, which was held at the InterContinental Dhaka.

Palki Motors Limited won the award in the green manufacturing category, Centre for Housing and Building Research in energy efficiency, Dr Chashi in climate-smart agriculture, Joler Chobi Matir Chobi in climate education and policy advocacy, and BRAC Microfinance in climate adaptation and resilience.

Palki Motors Limited, Bangladesh's first homegrown electric vehicle (EV) manufacturer, focuses on sustainable, cost-effective EV production. By addressing urban air pollution and reducing dependence on fossil fuels, the company empowers ridesharing drivers with affordable, energy-efficient cars.

The Centre for Housing and Building Research (HBRC) was

honoured for its work in advocating environmentally sustainable housing solutions. By promoting alternative building materials such as ferrocement and energy-efficient concrete blocks, HBRC aims to reduce reliance on energy-intensive clay bricks.

Dr Chashi, a digital agriculture platform, was recognized for empowering farmers, gardeners, and agro-dealers with AI-driven tools to optimize crop health, enhance yields, and foster environmental sustainability.

Joler Chobi Matir Chobi, a community-driven climate education initiative, was awarded for its unique approach to raising awareness about the climate crisis and adaptation strategies through cinema.

BRAC Microfinance was celebrated for its climate adaptation initiatives, including crop and livestock insurance, climate-resilient farming technologies, and large-scale tree plantations.

The opportunities and potential for achieving gains through the green economy and sustainable economic transformation are enormous, according to Bangladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur, who said that Bangladesh must pursue these goals.

"I believe our financial community, supported by development partners and the rapid technological innovations

occurring globally, can drive this transformation," the governor said at the EBL Climate Change Action Awards yesterday.

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Mansur, as the chief guest at the event held at the InterContinental Dhaka, handed over the awards to the winners in five distinct categories.

The central bank governor emphasised that Bangladesh is actively working to enhance its contribution to emission control as part of the global community.

"We see that the ready-made garments sector has responded very positively to mitigation efforts," said Mansur, a prominent economist. "The number of certified green RMG factories has already exceeded 200—the highest in the world—and their quality is excellent."

Therefore, he expressed confidence that nearly all factories in the sector would become green over the next 10 years.

In his opening remarks, EBL Managing Director and CEO Ali Reza Iftakhar said the bank has actively integrated climate-conscious policies across

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