



BUSINESS

Boards of three more banks reconstituted

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Bangladesh Bank (BB) yesterday reconstituted the boards of three private commercial banks due to a lack of good governance.

The reconstituted banks are NRB Commercial Bank, NRB Bank, and Meghna Bank.

Arief Hossain Khan, executive director and spokesperson of the central bank, confirmed the matter, adding that the next course of action would be declared today.

The banking regulator has now reconstituted a total of 14 banks since the political changeover on August 5 last year.

The central bank removed the Parvez Tamal-led NRBC Bank board, the Mohammed Mahtabur Rahman-led NRB Bank board, and the HN Ashequr Rahman-led Meghna Bank board.

Despite being a chairman of NRBC Bank, Tamal had been serving a role more akin to that of a managing director, and the central bank found significant irregularities linked to him.

At Meghna Bank, HN Ashequr Rahman, a former member of parliament and Awami League leader, along with the family members of former land minister Saifuzzaman Chowdhury, exerted undue influence.

In the case of NRB Bank, Mohammed Mahtabur Rahman had held chairmanship since 2016, turning into something of a one-man institution.

The banking regulator has formed new boards for the three lenders, appointing seven board members for each, including former central bank executive directors, chartered accountants, and sponsor shareholders.

All seven new members of NRB Commercial Bank's board are independent directors, among whom Ali Hossain Prodhania, former

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New committee formed to review reserve heist

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The interim government has formed a new committee, headed by Asif Nazrul, adviser for law, justice, and parliamentary affairs, to review the reserve heist from Bangladesh Bank that took place in 2016.

On March 12, the Cabinet Division issued a gazette notification announcing the formation of the six-member committee, which includes Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan, adviser for power, energy, and mineral resources; Faiz Ahmed Taiyeb, special assistant for the ministry of posts, telecommunications, and information technology; Ahsan H Mansur, governor of Bangladesh Bank; Ali Ashfaq, director of Biman Bangladesh Airlines; and Nazrul Huda, chairman of Rupali Bank.

The committee will review the progress of the investigation into the Bangladesh Bank reserve heist of February 2016, assess other government measures taken in this regard, determine responsibility for the incident, and provide necessary recommendations to prevent the recurrence of such an incident.

The gazette notice stated that the committee would submit its recommendations within three months of the issuance of the notification.

The Financial Institutions Division will provide secretarial support to the committee, which may co-opt members, if necessary, the notice added, specifying that meetings of the committee will be held as required.

Receiver for Beximco no longer necessary

High Court says

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The High Court (HC) yesterday said a receiver for managing the companies of Beximco Group is no longer necessary.

Considering the interests of thousands of workers and employees, the HC allowed Beximco Group to continue managing its companies on their own in strict compliance with the law.

However, the HC upheld the receiver's actions and ordered the authorities concerned to take necessary steps against individuals or institutions responsible for sanctioning questionable loan facilities to the companies of Beximco Group.

Delivering its verdict on a writ petition, the HC ordered the Bangladesh Bank to take necessary steps to recover the defaulted and classified loans, amounting to Tk 53,000 crore, within the bounds of the law.

"...There is no doubt to find that Bangladesh Bank as well as its respective scheduled banks and financial institutions have miserably failed to perform and or observe their statutory or legal obligations towards disbursement of loan as well as realisation of the defaulted and classified loan amount from the respective companies of Beximco

Considering the interests of thousands of workers and employees, the HC allowed Beximco Group to continue managing its companies on their own in strict compliance with the law

Group of Companies; the consequence of which shall ultimately be borne by the public in general," the HC bench of Justice Farah Mahbub and Justice Debasish Roy Chowdhury observed.

"The appointment of receiver in the instant case has not been made within the framework of the respective statutes, rules, regulations or circulars of Bangladesh Bank," the bench said.

The conduct of the Bangladesh Bank and all scheduled banks and financial institutions concerned in sanctioning loan facilities to Beximco Group in violation of banking rules and regulations had become questionable, it added.

The HC directed the central bank, the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU), and other relevant authorities to complete any ongoing investigation or inquiry into the matter.

If any wrongdoing is found, appropriate action must be taken in accordance with the law, said the HC.

The bench delivered the verdict after hearing the writ petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer Masood R Sobhan.

Barrister Masood R Sobhan represented himself in the petition, while Barrister Muniruzzaman appeared for the central bank and Barrister Fida M Kamal represented Beximco Group during the hearing.

Following the same writ petition, the HC on September 5 last year directed the Bangladesh Bank to appoint a receiver to manage the companies of Beximco Group and attach all their properties for six months.

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

In a war-ravaged country following the independence of Bangladesh, very few braved the risk of leaving a well-paid job to become a businessman.

Syed Manzur Elahi, chairman of Apex Footwear Ltd, was one of those visionaries who dedicated their lives to rebuilding the

s.Oliver and Wolverine proves that.

Elahi took "Made in Bangladesh" to new heights with his leather products, although he belonged to a family of legal minds.

The son of Syed Nasim Ali, the Chief Justice of undivided Bengal, Elahi was born on September 26, 1942, in Kolkata. While he could have followed the same path, he

no turning back.

After founding Apex Footwear Ltd, he transformed it into one of Bangladesh's largest footwear exporters.

As Apex Footwear gained prominence, more ventures appeared. Elahi was the mastermind behind Apex

BUILT AN EMPIRE OF AT LEAST 10 COMPANIES AND INSTITUTIONS

- Apex Footwear
- Apex Tannery
- Mutual Trust Bank
- Pioneer Insurance
- East West University
- Sunbeams School
- Manusher Jonno Foundation
- Freedom Foundation
- Grey Advertising

LED VARIOUS CHAMBERS AND ASSOCIATIONS, INCLUDING

Bangladesh Association of Banks
Central Depository Bangladesh
Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Bangladesh Employers' Association
Dhaka University Alumni Association

Legacy of Syed Manzur Elahi (1942 - 2025)



THE JOURNEY

Born on September 26 in Calcutta, British India in 1942

Completed his Bachelor of Arts from St Xavier's College, Kolkata in 1962

Obtained Master's in Economics from DU in 1964

Joined British American Tobacco in 1965, entered the business world

Ventured into entrepreneurship in 1972

Acquired Orient Tannery in 1975, entered the leather industry

Established first export factory in 1990

Served as adviser of the caretaker govt twice in 1996 and 2001

Tannery, Mutual Trust Bank, Pioneer Insurance, and Grey Advertising. He also founded charitable institutions such as Manusher Jonno Foundation and educational institutions such as East West University and Sunbeams School.

His wisdom and vision also guided organisations such as the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), the Diabetic Association of

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Political will key to unlocking Bimstec's potential

Economists say Bimstec's intra-regional trade remains at 7% compared to Asean's 25%

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

In spite of bridging South Asia and Southeast Asia, the seven-member Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (Bimstec) has failed to emerge as a powerful economic bloc due to a lack of political will and trade barriers, economists say.

The combined economic size of Bimstec members stands at around \$4.7 trillion, highlighting the bloc's vast potential for boosting intra-regional trade.

However, referring to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), analysts said Bimstec's intra-regional trade accounts for just 7 percent of its total trade, compared to 25 percent for Asean.

"The absence of a well-defined trade framework is keeping Bimstec from realising its full potential," said Selim Raihan, a professor of economics at the University of Dhaka, at a policy dialogue in Dhaka yesterday.

Speakers at the event, titled Regional Cooperation and Development: Curtain Raiser to the Sixth BIMSTEC Summit, said that unlike Asean, which has established free trade policies and value chain integration, Bimstec struggles with fragmented trade arrangements and weak institutional frameworks.

They urged Bimstec members to learn from Asean's success in fostering regional trade and economic integration.

Bimstec was established in 1997 to promote economic and technical cooperation. Its members are Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan and Nepal.

Raihan, also the executive director of the South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (Sanem), said, "While an FTA framework was signed in 2004, there has been little tangible progress due to reluctance among member states and prolonged negotiations over tariff reductions and sensitive lists."

Sanem and the Bimstec Secretariat jointly organised the event at Sanem's Dhaka office.

The economist said that the lack of a comprehensive FTA, along with non-tariff barriers and protectionist policies, continues to hinder regional economic integration.

Globalisation is slowing and regionalism remains a viable strategy—yet South Asia has not fully capitalised on it, said Zaidi Sattar, chairman of Policy Research Institute (PRI).

"Bimstec must embrace strategic

BIMSTEC'S KEY FIGURES

Combined GDP: \$4.7tn

Intraregional trade of total trade: 7%

Estimated infrastructure investment needed: \$120b per year



CHALLENGES

Lack of a well-defined trade framework

Non-tariff barriers, protectionist policies

Weak institutional frameworks

Limited funding, bureaucratic inefficiencies

Infrastructure gaps in transport, logistics

regionalism, where countries within the bloc work together to offset global trade uncertainties," he said.

However, the economist said, differences in political will have long delayed trade integration, with member states prioritising nationalistic economic policies over collective growth.

Sattar said delays in implementing a Bimstec charter, which took 25 years to finalise, reflect the lack of urgency among the members.

Limited funding and bureaucratic inefficiencies within Bimstec Secretariat have further stymied progress, he pointed out.

Fifth sukuk oversubscribed by three times as govt raises Tk 3,000cr

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The government yesterday received a huge response from investors centring its initiative to raise Tk 3,000 crore through sukuk, a Shariah-compliant bond, to fund the construction of bridges to connect rural roads.

In an auction of 7-year bonds, Bangladesh Bank (BB) received bids worth Tk 10,925 crore from Shariah-based banks and financial institutions, relevant branches and windows of conventional banks, provident funds, and individual investors.

The subscription amount was 3.64 percent higher than the face value of the bond, the BB said in a press release.

Due to the oversubscription, the BB proportionately allotted the sukuk among bidders, with the highest share worth Tk 2,144 crore going to Shariah-based banks.

The Islamic banks had submitted 10 bids totalling Tk 5,663 crore.

Conventional banks with Islamic branches and windows received the second-highest allotment, followed by individual investors and provident funds.

The BB said the annual rate of return on the sukuk—a financial certificate similar to a treasury bond and structured to generate returns in compliance with Islamic finance principles—will be 9.25 percent.

In the fourth week of January this year, the BB announced the government's plan to raise funds to build bridges to connect rural roads, boost agricultural production, and improve socioeconomic conditions at the grassroots level.

With the latest auction, the government raised a total of Tk 22,000 crore through the issuance of sukuk.

Since its launch in December 2020, the Shariah-compliant bond enabled the government to raise Tk 19,000 crore over the past four years for the financing of various projects.

The BB said the CIBRR-2 socioeconomic sukuk, the fifth of its kind, will be used for the project titled "Construction of Important Bridges on Rural Roads", initiated by the previous government at the start of 2017.

The Tk 6,500 crore project is scheduled to be completed in June 2026.

The fifth sukuk will have a positive impact on rural road communication and socioeconomic development, the BB said.



Global Islami Bank strikes deal with Chattogram Wasa

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Global Islami Bank PLC yesterday signed an agreement with Chattogram Wasa, enhancing their collaborative efforts.

Md Lal Hossain, deputy managing director (finance) of Chattogram Wasa, and Imtiaz Ahmed Siddiqui, head of marketing of the Shariah-based bank, signed the agreement at the former's head office in Chattogram, said a press release.

As part of this arrangement, all branches and sub-branches across Chattogram and its surrounding areas will continue to facilitate payments for water and sewerage bills, alongside other related services for Chattogram Wasa.

Mohammed Akther Hossain, head of the Chattogram zone and manager of the Agrabad branch, and Sk Rasel Uddin, manager of the Jubilee Road branch, were present.

Kazi Shahidul Islam, deputy secretary of Chattogram Wasa, Al Mehedi Shawkat Azam, chief accounts officer, and Lutfe Jahan, system analyst, together with senior officials from both organisations, were also present.



Md Lal Hossain, deputy managing director (finance) of Chattogram Wasa, and Imtiaz Ahmed Siddiqui, head of marketing of Global Islami Bank, shake hands and exchange signed documents of an agreement at the former's head office in Chattogram yesterday.

PHOTO: GLOBAL ISLAMI BANK

Southeast Bank organises capacity development programme



PHOTO: SOUTHEAST BANK

MA Kashem, chairman of Southeast Bank, poses for group photographs with the participants of the "Capacity Development Programme to Enhance Marketing Expertise on Retail Banking Loan and Credit Card" in Dhaka recently.

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Southeast Bank PLC recently organised a training programme titled "Capacity Development Programme to Enhance Marketing Expertise on Retail Banking Loan and Credit Card."

The initiative aims to equip banking professionals with cutting-edge strategies and practical skills to effectively market financial products in an increasingly competitive environment.

A total of 70 participants from various branches of the bank attended the programme, according to a press release.

MA Kashem, chairman of the bank, inaugurated the event as the chief guest, delivering an insightful speech that

emphasised the bank's commitment to innovation and customer-centric growth.

Nuruddin Md Sadeque Hossain, managing director of the bank, also participated in the event.

Md Jahangir Kabir, executive vice-president and head of ID at the bank; Md Abdul Kader, senior assistant vice-president and head of the retail banking division; Farhana Hossain Erna, assistant vice-president; and Humaira Sharmeen, CEO of Humaira's Collection and lead consultant at Campus to Corporate, attended as resource persons.

Sayma Banu, director (training) of the Southeast Bank Training Institute, along with other senior officials of the bank, was also present.

US job openings rise, layoffs low

REUTERS, Washington

US job openings increased in January, but demand for labour is likely to soften in the months ahead amid concerns that uncertainty over import tariffs and aggressive government spending cuts could cause a sharp slowdown in economic activity.

For now, the labor market is holding steady, with the Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey, or JOLTS report, from the Labor Department on Tuesday showing layoffs declining for a fourth straight month to the lowest level since last June.

There were 1.13 job openings for every unemployed person, up from 1.09 in December. Hiring, however, remained tepid consistent with caution among businesses. President Donald Trump's whiplash trade policy, marked by on-again and off-again tariffs against Canada and Mexico, has shaken business and consumer confidence.

Investors have dumped stocks, wiping out all the gains notched in the aftermath of Trump's November 5 election victory, as the risks of a recession have increased from the trade tensions.

"This report tells us that the labor market was healthy from the perspective of continued expansion prior to the policy regime shift that began to unfold with the new administration," said Conrad DeQuadros, senior economic advisor at Brean Capital.

"Unfortunately, the report tells us nothing about how companies will respond to the threat of tariffs and rising uncertainty, and this could take several months to unfold."

PRICES OF KEY ESSENTIALS IN DHAKA CITY			
	PRICE (MAR 12, 2025)	% CHANGES FROM A MONTH AGO	% CHANGE FROM A YEAR AGO
Fine rice (kg)	Tk 72-Tk 85	3.29 ↑	14.60 ↑
Coarse rice (kg)	Tk 50-Tk 55	0	5.00 ↑
Loose flour (kg)	Tk 40-Tk 45	0	-10.53 ↓
Lentil (kg)	Tk 105-Tk 110	0	-3.15 ↓
Soybean (litre)	Tk 174-Tk 184	-1.92 ↓	18.15 ↑
Potato (kg)	Tk 20-Tk 30	0	-23.08 ↓
Onion (kg)	Tk 35-Tk 50	-5.56 ↓	-57.50 ↓
Egg (4 pcs)	Tk 40-Tk 45	0	-2.30 ↓

SOURCE: TCB

National Bank signs MoU with Asgar Ali Hospital for discounts, benefits

STAR BUSINESS DESK

National Bank Limited recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Asgar Ali Hospital.

Kazi Kamal Uddin Ahmed, senior executive vice-president and head of the information technology division at the bank, and Maruf Bin Hafiz, senior manager, corporate affairs of the hospital, signed the agreement at the latter's office in Dhaka, said a press release.



Kazi Kamal Uddin Ahmed, senior executive vice-president and head of IT division at National Bank, and Maruf Bin Hafiz, senior manager, corporate affairs of Asgar Ali Hospital, pose for photographs after signing the deal at the latter's office in Dhaka recently.

PHOTO: NATIONAL BANK

Shining forever
with love and respect

Syed Manzur Elahi
(1942-2025)
Chairman, Apex Group

We mourn |

বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড
Bangladesh Power Development Board

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর
আঞ্চলিক মোরামত কারখানা
বিউবো, টঙ্গী, গাজীপুর
ফোনঃ ০১৭৫৫৫৮১৩৯৪

Memo No. 27.11.3300.808.20.001.25-169

Date: 10.03.2025

e-Tender Notice (Open Tender Method)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal for the following procurement. Interested tenderers are requested to visit <https://www.eprocure.gov.bd> for the details.

Tender ID	Description of goods	Tender document publication date and time	Tender document last downloading date and time	Last date and time of tender submission	Tender opening date and time	Tender security (BDT)
1084832	Procurement of Press Board of 1mm & 1.50mm for ZRS, BPDB, Tongi, Gazipur	20-Mar-2025 11:00	07-Apr-2025 16:00	07-Apr-2025 16:30	08-Apr-2025 14:00	36,000/-
1084880	Procurement of Copper Made HT and LT Terminal Rod/Lead for 200kva and 250kva Transformer for ZRS, BPDB, Tongi, Gazipur.	20-Mar-2025 12:00	08-Apr-2025 16:00	08-Apr-2025 16:30	09-Apr-2025 14:00	36,000/-
1084881	Procurement of Copper Made LT Terminal Rod/Lead For 100kva Transformer at ZRS, BPDB, Tongi, Gazipur.	20-Mar-2025 12:30	07-Apr-2025 16:00	07-Apr-2025 16:30	08-Apr-2025 15:00	21,000/-
1084882	Procurement of Copper made LT/HT coupling of different sizes for the office of ZRS, BPDB, Tongi, Gazipur.	20-Mar-2025 14:00	08-Apr-2025 16:00	08-Apr-2025 16:30	09-Apr-2025 15:00	21,000/-

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 e-GP System Portal <https://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 any registered bank branches.

বিদ্যুৎ/জন-৮৯২(২)/১২/০৩/২৫

Md. Emam Hasan
ID No. 1-1989
Executive Engineer
Zonal Repair Shop
BPDB, Tongi, Gazipur

GD-651

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

INTERNATIONAL TENDER NOTICE

EDCL invites **Two Envelope System** International Tender for Supply, Installation, Commissioning, Documentation & SAT of Pharmaceutical Machinery for Bogura Plant on C&F© Dhaka By Air and Chittagong by Sea Basis:-

S.L No.	Tender No. Date	Name of the Item	Cost of Tender Schedule	Last date of Closing & opening
01.	IMP/Machine/SEM/67/2024-2025 dated 12/03/2025	Supply, Installation, Commissioning, Validation with documents of following Machine (specification as per tender schedule): For Bogura Plant (Double Envelope System) 01. Dissolution Tester - 01(One)	Tk. 1250.00/set Equivalent to US\$ 11.00 Non-refundable	Closing : 17/04/2025 at 11.00AM Opening : 17/04/2025 at 11.15AM

Tender schedule will be sold from the Accounts Department of Essential Drugs Company Limited, 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 in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order/Bank Guarantee from any Schedule Bank of Bangladesh in favour 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.

N.B: **This Information is also available at our Website : www.edcl.gov.bd**

(৫.৫"X ৪)

General Manager
Procurement (CC)
For : Managing Director.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

যুব ও ক্রীড়া মন্ত্রণালয়
যুব-০১ শাখা
বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা
www.moysports.gov.bd

স্মারক নং-৩৪.০০.০০০০.০৫১.৯১.০০১.২৫-১৩

তারিখঃ ২৭ ফাল্গুন, ১৪৩১ বঙ্গাব্দ
১২ মার্চ, ২০২৫ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ

“ইয়ুথ ভলান্টিয়ার্স অ্যাওয়ার্ড-২০২৫” এর বিজ্ঞপ্তি

যুবকল্যাণ তহবিল আইন, ২০১৬ মোতাবেক সামাজিক ক্ষেত্রে অসাধারণ অবদানের জন্য যুবদের চলতি ২০২৪-২০২৫ অর্থবছরে নিম্নে উল্লিখিত ০৫টি ক্যাটাগরিতে “ইয়ুথ ভলান্টিয়ার্স অ্যাওয়ার্ড-২০২৫” প্রদানের নিমিত্ত নিম্নোক্ত শর্তাবলী অনুযায়ী আগ্রহী প্রার্থীদের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে :

পুরস্কার ক্যাটাগরির নাম

ক্রমিক নং	ক্যাটাগরির নাম	পুরস্কার সংখ্যা	পুরস্কারের ধরণ (প্রতিটির ক্ষেত্রে)
(১)	যুব উন্নয়ন ও কর্মসংস্থানে অসাধারণ অবদানের জন্য	০৩ (তিন)টি	প্রতিটি পুরস্কার
(২)	শিক্ষা, বিজ্ঞান, তথ্য প্রযুক্তি, কারিগরি ক্ষেত্রে অসাধারণ অবদানের জন্য	০৩ (তিন)টি	নগদ ১,০০,০০০/- (এক লক্ষ)
(৩)	দেশ প্রেম, ধীরহ ও সাহসিকতার ক্ষেত্রে অসাধারণ অবদানের জন্য	০৩(তিন)টি	টাকা/গ্রাইজবন্ড, একাটি সম্মাননা
(৪)	জ্যেষ্ঠদের প্রতি আদর্শ সেবা/ সমাজকল্যাণে অসাধারণ অবদানের জন্য	০৩ (তিন)টি	ফ্রেস্ট-এবং একাটি সার্টিফিকেট
(৫)	ক্রীড়া, কলা ও সংস্কৃতিতে উল্লেখযোগ্য অবদানের জন্য	০৩ (তিন)টি	

আবেদনের শর্তাবলী

- ১.ক আবেদনকারীকে অবশ্যই ১৮ হতে ৪৫ বছরের বয়সসীমার নারী-পুরুষ নির্বিশেষে বাংলাদেশের নাগরিক হতে হবে।
- ১.খ অলাভজনক, অরাজনৈতিক এবং অবৈতনিকভাবে খেদ্দাসেবক হিসেবে সেবা ও উন্নয়নমূলক কর্মে নিয়োজিত যুবরা এ পুরস্কারের জন্য আবেদন করতে পারবেন।
- ১.গ আগ্রহী যুবগণকে স্ব স্ব উপজেলা কমিটির সভাপতি হিসেবে উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসার ব্যবহার আবেদন নির্ধারিত ফরমে দাখিল করতে হবে। তবে মহানগরীর ক্ষেত্রে যেখানে উপজেলা কার্যালয় নেই জেলা কমিটির সভাপতি হিসেবে জেলা প্রশাসক ব্যবহার আবেদন করতে হবে।
- ১.ঘ আবেদনের সাথে দাখিলকৃত প্রোফাইলের ক্ষেত্রে যে ক্যাটাগরিতে আবেদন করবেন সে ক্যাটাগরিতে উল্লিখিত বিষয় সংশ্লিষ্ট একজন কর্মকর্তার (সরকারি, আধাসরকারি/স্বায়ত্বশাসিত/রাষ্ট্রায়ত্ত্ব সংস্থার জাতীয় বেসন স্কেল, ২০১৫ অনুযায়ী ৯ম বা তদুর্ধ্ব গ্রেডে কর্মরত কর্মকর্তা) প্রত্যয়ন সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।
- ১.ঙ একজন আবেদনকারী কেবলমাত্র একাটি ক্যাটাগরিতে আবেদন করতে পারবেন।
- ১.চ যৌজদারি মামলায় দণ্ডিত কোনো ব্যক্তি এ পুরস্কারের জন্য বিবেচিত হবেন না।
- ১.ছ সমাজ বা রাষ্ট্র বিরোধী কাজে লিপ্ত কোনো যুব এ পুরস্কারের জন্য বিবেচিত হবেন না।
- ১.জ যখনখালি কোনো ব্যক্তি এ পুরস্কারের জন্য বিবেচিত হবেন না।
- ১.ঝ চূড়ান্তভাবে বিজয়ীকে ভোপ টেস্টে যোগ্য বিবেচিত হতে হবে। কোনো বিজয়ী ভোপ টেস্টে অযোগ্য বিবেচিত হলে ক্যাটাগরিভিত্তিক মেধাক্রমের শীর্ষ থেকে পরবর্তী বিজয়ী নির্বাচিত হবেন।
- ১.ঞ ইতোপূর্বে ভলান্টিয়ার্স অ্যাওয়ার্ড প্রাপ্তগণ এ পুরস্কারের জন্য বিবেচিত হবেন না।
- ১.ট পুরস্কার প্রদানের বিষয়ে যুবকল্যাণ তহবিল ব্যবস্থাপনা বোর্ডের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।

২। যুব ও ক্রীড়া মন্ত্রণালয়ের ওয়েবসাইট (www.moysports.gov.bd)-এ প্রবেশ করে ইয়ুথ ভলান্টিয়ার্স অ্যাওয়ার্ড-২০২৫ ক্লিক করে আবেদনের নির্ধারিত ফরম সংগ্রহপূর্বক তা যথাযথভাবে পূরণপূর্বক এসজে অনুচ্ছেদভিত্তিক চাহিত তথ্যাদি সংযুক্ত করে আবেদন আগামী ০৭ এপ্রিল, ২০২৫ খ্রিষ্টাব্দ (২৪ চৈত্র, ১৪৩১ বঙ্গাব্দ) তারিখ সোমবার অফিস সময়ের মধ্যে নির্ধারিত স্থানে (শর্তাবলীর ১.গ উপঅনুচ্ছেদ অনুযায়ী) সরাসরি দাখিল করতে হবে। উল্লেখ্য, নির্ধারিত তারিখের পর কোনো আবেদন গ্রহণ করা হবে না।

৩। আবেদন ফরমে উল্লিখিত চাহিত সকল প্রমাণক (সনদপত্র, প্রত্যয়নপত্র, ছবি, ভিডিও, পেনড্রাইভ ও অন্যান্য তথ্যাদি) সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।

৪। সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ে প্রয়োজনে যুব উন্নয়ন অধিদপ্তরের জেলা কার্যালয়ের উপপরিচালক ও উপজেলা যুব উন্নয়ন কর্মকর্তাগণের (মেট্রোপলিটন ইউনিট থানা যুব উন্নয়ন কর্মকর্তাসহ) সাথে যোগাযোগ করা যেতে পারে। প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে এ মন্ত্রণালয়ের সংশ্লিষ্ট নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তার সাথে মোবাইল নম্বর-০১৭৬২০০৩৬৬-এ যোগাযোগ করা যেতে পারে।

(স্বাক্ষর)
১২.০৩.২৫
শাহানা সুলতানা
উপসচিব

NBR extends corporate tax return deadline to April 30

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has extended the deadline for companies to file their income tax returns until April 30 this year.

Previously, businesses were required to submit their returns by March 16.

Announcing the extension, the tax authority yesterday issued a notification, signed by HM Shahriar Hassan, second secretary of the NBR.

This marks the third time the NBR has extended the deadline due to the low response from businesses and requests from stakeholders.

Initially, the deadline was pushed from January 15 to February 15, before being further extended to March 16.

Gold price steady

REUTERS

Gold prices held were little changed on Wednesday, with the market's attention on US President Donald Trump's tariff policies and a key US inflation report due later in the day.

Spot gold was steady at \$2,919.06 an ounce as of 0928 GMT, after rising 1 percent in the previous session. US gold futures inched up slightly to \$2,924.80.

Investors are focused on the US Consumer Price Index data, due at 1230 GMT, for clues on the Federal Reserve's interest rate stance.

The Fed last year cut rates by 100 basis points, but has held steady since then. Traders are currently expecting the next cut in June.

In order "to see gold marching further up, we need to see a further slowdown of the US economy including lower price pressure," said independent analyst Giovanni Staunovo.

"The policies of the Trump administration such as tariffs keep financial markets volatile and support demand for safe haven assets, added Staunovo."

Trump's increased tariffs on all US steel and aluminum imports took effect on Wednesday, stepping up a campaign to reorder global trade in favour of the US and drawing swift retaliation from Europe.

Bullion is seen as a safe asset amid economic and geopolitical turmoil. It also tends to thrive in a low interest rate environment as it yields no interest.

BANGLADESH IMPORTS over five times its exports to Saarc nations

TAKEAWAYS

Trade Imbalance

Imports from Saarc nations in FY24 were \$9.76b | Exports were \$1.74b

KEY TRADING PARTNER

India accounts for over 92% of imports and 90% of exports within Saarc

MAIN IMPORTS

Textiles, chemicals, minerals, vegetables, beverages, machinery and base metals

MAIN EXPORTS

Garments, vegetable fats & oils, raw hides and skins, leather, plastic and rubber products

0.1% Maldives

0.2% Afghanistan

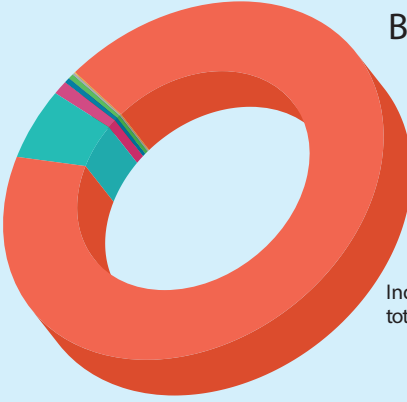
0.4% Bhutan

0.4% Nepal

1.1% Sri Lanka

6.0% Pakistan

91.8% India



BANGLADESH'S TRADE WITH SAARC NATIONS
Countrywise share of trade in %; In FY24

India accounts for 92% of total trade with Saarc nations
Pakistan 6%

SOURCE: BB

RECOMMENDATIONS

Review the main obstacles to exporting diversified goods

Strengthen regional cooperation

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh continues to grapple with a significant trade imbalance with Saarc countries as import payments far exceed exports, according to the latest Bangladesh Bank (BB) report.

The report, covering fiscal year (FY) 2023-24, shows Bangladesh's total import payments to Saarc nations stood at \$9.76 billion while export earnings from the region reached only \$1.74 billion.

Imports were more than five times the value of Bangladesh's exports to the eight-member bloc, underscoring the country's heavy reliance on goods from its South Asian neighbours – particularly India, its largest trading partner in the region and second-largest import source after China.

Imports from Saarc accounted for 15.44 percent of Bangladesh's total imports of \$63.22 billion in FY24, up slightly from a year earlier.

In the same year, exports to the region made up 4.47 percent of total shipments of around \$39 billion, according to the BB report on Bangladesh's trade, remittances and foreign investment within Saarc, released Tuesday.

"The respective authority should take appropriate policy measures to reduce the amount of imported goods from Saarc countries by raising indigenous production of such goods to meet the demand of the people of Bangladesh," the BB said.

The report also said Bangladesh's overall imports declined in FY24 from the previous year, in line with a broader drop in total imports. Exports also fell, reflecting a downward trend in trade with regional partners.

Of the total imports from Saarc, Bangladesh sourced over 92 percent from India in FY24. Similarly, India accounted for 90 percent of Bangladesh's exports to the region, the report said.

After India, the top three destinations for Bangladeshi goods within Saarc were Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

Pakistan was the second-largest source of imports within Saarc, with Bangladesh paying \$627 million in FY24, or 6.34 percent of the total import payments to the region.

However, exports to Pakistan declined

sharply, falling 25 percent year-on-year to \$62 million in FY24 from \$82.85 million a year earlier.

Exports to Pakistan made up 3.56 percent of the total shipments to Saarc.

Bangladesh mainly imported textiles and textile articles, chemical products, mineral products, vegetable products, beverages, spirits and vinegar, tobacco, machinery and mechanical appliances, base metals, and articles of base metals from Saarc nations.

Its key exports included garments, vegetable fats and oils such as rice bran oil, raw hides, leather, and plastic and rubber products.



"India stands out as the primary destination for Bangladesh's export receipts within the Saarc region, showing substantial growth over the years."

The report said exports to Saarc nations displayed mixed trends – some countries showed consistent growth while others fluctuated, "possibly influenced by economic factors, trade agreements, or specific industries".

Export receipts from Pakistan varied over the years, peaking at \$105.80 million in FY22.

Sri Lanka was the third-largest destination for Bangladeshi exports within Saarc, accounting for 3.11 percent of total shipments.

"Export receipts of Bangladesh from Sri

Lanka have been steadily increasing," the report said.

Exports to Nepal also showed growth, especially from FY11 to FY22, reaching a peak of \$105.50 million in FY22 before plunging to \$43.38 million in FY24.

Nepal accounted for 2.49 percent of Bangladesh's exports in FY24.

The Maldives, Bhutan and Afghanistan collectively imported about \$25 million worth of Bangladeshi goods, with earnings from these three countries remaining stagnant over time.

The BB said Bangladesh exports a limited range of products within Saarc.

"Thus, authorities like the Export

Promotion Bureau and Bangladesh Bank should take effective initiatives to boost export earnings from the Saarc region by selling diversified Bangladeshi goods."

"The authorities should review the main obstacles to selling diversified Bangladeshi goods to Saarc countries and mitigate them to reduce the trade deficit," it added.

The central bank further said that while Bangladesh continues to exhibit economic growth and trade expansion, further exploration of opportunities and mitigation of challenges, particularly within Saarc, remain necessary.

"Strengthening regional cooperation and addressing trade imbalances will be essential for sustainable economic development."

CPA step yields results as yards clear up

DWAIPAYAN BARUA, Ctg

A prior warning from the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) about a fourfold hike in container storage charges for longer stays has proved fruitful in combating acute congestion inside the port yards.

On February 19, the number of FCL containers reached over 31,000 TEUs against a total capacity of 40,368 TEUs.

A day later, the CPA director (traffic) issued a notice urging importers to speed up delivery by March 9. Otherwise, it warned that the charges would be increased fourfold.

The number of FCL containers came down to 25,000 TEUs by March 1, and the scenario remained the same till yesterday.

Meanwhile, the CPA started imposing higher rent on full container load (FCL) containers left undelivered beyond the four-day period on Monday after the declared deadline expired.

However, the warning, which was given almost three weeks ago, yielded results well ahead of the deadline, port officials claimed.

The port had been experiencing a huge pile-up of FCL containers—meaning those occupied by a single importer's goods—since early last month, when the inflow of imported Ramadan cargo began to gain momentum.

Around 90 percent of imported containers arriving at the port are FCL containers.

At one stage, the yards dedicated to storing FCL containers exceeded 78 to 80 percent of their storage capacity.

Berth operators reported that they had witnessed an improvement in the situation within a week as importers sped up delivery. The number of FCL containers came down to 25,000 TEUs by March 1, and the scenario remained the same till yesterday

The move was designed to reduce congestion, said CPA Secretary Md Omar Faruk, adding that ahead of Ramadan, a section of importers intentionally delays taking delivery of goods to manipulate market prices.

Usually, no storage rent is charged for the first four days after a container is unloaded from a vessel.

For a 20-foot loaded container, the port charges \$6 per day for the first seven days after the free period, \$12 per day from the 12th to the 20th day, and \$24 per day from the 21st day onward.

For a 40-foot container, the charges double at each stage.

With the new imposition, importers will have to pay between \$24 and \$96 per day for a 20-foot container in phases after the four-day free period expires.

Berth operators reported that they had witnessed an improvement in the situation within a week as importers sped up delivery.

Hailing the timely move, Nazmul Hoque, executive director of Saif Powertec, which runs the New Mooring Container Terminal (NCT), said there is no congestion at the yards now.

Garment exporters, however, expressed concern over the higher rent, as a significant volume of FCL containers carry imported raw materials for the sector.

Nasir Uddin Chowdhury, first vice-president of BGMEA, said no garment owner wants to keep their imported containers at the yard for even an additional hour.

However, mentioning that it takes time to clear imports due to complexities in documentation and other valid reasons in some cases, the BGMEA sought special consideration for unintentional delays.

He also urged the authority to exempt FCL containers imported for the garment sector from the imposition.

EU to impose counter tariffs on \$28b of US goods

REUTERS, Brussels

The European Union will impose counter tariffs on 26 billion euros (\$28 billion) worth of US goods from next month, the European Commission said on Wednesday, ramping up a global trade war in response to blanket US tariffs on steel and aluminium.

The EU executive said, however, that it remained open to negotiations and considered higher tariffs in no one's interest.

US President Donald Trump's increased tariffs of 25 percent on all steel and aluminium imports took effect on Wednesday as prior exemptions, duty free quotas and product exclusions expired.

The European Commission said it will end its current suspension of tariffs on US products on April 1 and that its tariffs will be fully in place by April 13.

"The counter measures we take today are strong but proportionate. As the United States are applying tariffs worth \$28 billion we are responding with counter measures worth 26 billion euros," European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen told reporters.

"The EU must act to protect its consumers and business." The suspended tariffs apply to products ranging from boats to bourbon to motorbikes, and the EU said it would now start a two-week consultation to pick other product categories.

The new measures will target around 18 billion euros in goods, with the overall objective to ensure that the total value of the EU measures corresponds to the increased value of trade impacted by the new US tariffs, the EU said.

REUTERS, Washington

President Donald Trump's increased tariffs on all US steel and aluminum imports took effect on Wednesday, stepping up a campaign to reorder global trade in favor of the US and drawing swift retaliation from Europe.

Trump's action to bulk up protections for American steel and aluminum producers restores effective global tariffs of 25 percent on all imports of the metals and extends the duties to hundreds of downstream products made from the metals, from nuts and bolts to bulldozer blades and soda cans.

Trump's hyper-focus on tariffs since taking office in January has rattled investor, consumer and business confidence in ways that economists worry could cause a US recession and further lag on the global economy.

The European Commission, the executive arm of the European Union charged with coordinating trade matters, responded swiftly, saying it would impose counter tariffs on 26 billion euros (\$28 billion) worth of US goods from next month.

"We are ready to engage in meaningful dialogue," Commission President Ursula von der Leyen told reporters, adding she had tasked Trade Commissioner Maros

Selfovic to resume his talks to "explore better solutions with the US".

"We firmly believe that in a world fraught with geoeconomic and political uncertainties, it is not in our common interest to burden our economies with such tariffs."

China's foreign ministry said Beijing would take all necessary measures to safeguard its rights and interests, while Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshimasa Hayashi said the move could have a major impact on US Japan economic ties.



Workers install steel rods at a construction site in Florida on March 11.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Trump metal tariffs kick in as global trade war looms