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BUSINESS



Yarn import curb thru land ports draws mixed reactions

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has restricted yarn imports through land ports to protect the local textile and spinning sector from Indian imports of the raw material — a move hailed by textile millers but opposed by garment and knitwear exporters.

Apparel exporters said they could import yarn from neighbouring India through land ports in as little as a week. Now, their lead time will increase, affecting competitiveness in the global market.

The decision comes over two weeks after the commerce ministry recommended limiting yarn imports, citing that an influx of imported raw materials for the apparel industry had led to significant losses for domestic textile millers.

Local yarn manufacturers are unable to compete with imported yarn, as importers often declare lower values for shipments brought in through land ports compared to those arriving via Chattogram port, the ministry said earlier.



The recommendation followed pleas from local textile millers.

In a notification issued on April 13, the NBR blocked yarn imports through the Benapole, Bhomra, Banglabandha, Burimari, and Sonamasjid land ports. The restriction took effect immediately.

“This is not a good decision,” said Md Fazlul Hoque, managing director of Plummy Fashions Ltd, a leading knitwear exporter.

Already, Bangladesh’s exports face a 10 percent additional tariff in the US market. They will have to compete with Indian apparel there, too. In such a situation, any restriction on yarn imports through land ports will affect export-oriented apparel makers.

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NBR plans to roll back tax benefits for exporters

MD ASADUZ ZAMAN

In a bid to rationalise tax benefits and meet revenue targets set by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the National Board of Revenue (NBR) is considering reducing tax exemptions for export-oriented sectors in the upcoming national budget, according to a top official.

Industries such as readymade garments, footwear and frozen foods currently enjoy lower corporate tax rates — between 10 percent and 15 percent — compared with the 25 percent to 27 percent levied on non-exporting businesses.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, the NBR official confirmed that the plan is now at an early stage.

“To rationalise tax benefits, we will place some suggestions regarding the scaling back before Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed in early May,” he said.

The prospect of reduced tax benefits has rattled exporters, already wrestling with shifting global trade dynamics, including fresh US tariffs and Bangladesh’s scheduled graduation from the least developed country (LDC) club in 2026.

Economists and policy analysts have also voiced concern, saying abrupt changes could harm the country’s export competitiveness. They argue that better revenue collection and anti-corruption measures could yield greater results without hurting the export basket.

According to revenue officials, the planned cutbacks would be rolled out in phases. Some exemptions may be allowed to expire, while others could be curtailed by issuing statutory orders.

For instance, the tax break allowed to textile exporters in 2022 is set to expire this June. This may not be extended, the official said.

The readymade garment sector has

REDUCED RATE OF TAX FOR EXPORTS

General factories 12%

Green factories 10%

(Regular corporate rate 25% to 27.5%)

REDUCED RATE FOR MANUFACTURERS

Jute goods 10%

Textile 15%

Collection

AsofFebruary,NBRcollected Tk 221,817cr

EXEMPTIONS

Directtaxexpenditure so far in FY25: Tk 163,000cr

Directtaxexpenditure in FY24: Tk 147,000cr

IMF ASKS FOR ..

Raising additional Tk 57,000cr in FY26

Increasingtax-GDPratio to 7.9% by June’25 (Tax-GDP ratio now 7.4%)

“We will place some suggestions regarding the scaling back of tax exemption before the finance adviser in early May.”

An NBR official says

ECONOMISTS SUGGEST...

Considerthetiming for scrapping exemptions

Improve NBR efficiencies

Curbcorruptionin NBR

Give a clear roadmap to phase out exemption

been granted exemptions until 2028, which the official said might be cut short.

Apart from exporters, some other industries, such as jute, small textile mills, poultry and fisheries, are now enjoying lower rates. They currently pay between 5 percent and 15 percent, but may see rates gradually increase.

Ultimately, the NBR hopes to unify all exporters under a single tax structure, according to the official.

This fiscal year, the NBR estimates tax exemptions will cost the exchequer around Tk 163,000 crore — up from Tk 147,000 crore in 2023-24, which was equivalent to 2.91 percent of GDP.

Regarding the concerns of the exporters, the NBR official said,

“Although the export sectors are under pressure, we have to accelerate revenue collection to meet IMF conditions through rationalisation of tax benefits.”

NBR under IMF target pressure

To satisfy IMF requirements, the NBR has been tasked with collecting Tk 4.55 lakh crore in the 2024-25 fiscal year. This translates to monthly collections of more than Tk 60,000 crore over the remaining three months of the current fiscal year ending in June.

Achieving this goal will require a 19 percent increase in revenue compared to the previous year. Yet, by February, revenue growth had crawled to just 1.7 percent.

Internal NBR estimates show that revenue collection stood at around Tk 252,000 crore between July and March — well short of the annual target.

To minimise the gap, the revenue board has already hiked value-added tax (VAT) and supplementary duties (SDs) on nearly 100 goods and services, aiming to raise an additional Tk 12,000 crore this year.

But the IMF wants more.

For the next fiscal year, it has urged the NBR to not only meet the Tk 4.55 lakh crore target but also mobilise an extra Tk 57,000 crore by reducing exemptions and further raising taxes.

One NBR official called the target “high, ambitious, and unrealistic.”

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Foreign investors concerned about gas price hike

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Foreign Investors’ Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and the European Union Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh (EuroCham) have expressed concern over a recent decision by the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) to introduce a revised gas tariff structure that differentiates between new, committed, and existing customers within the same industrial category.

The government earlier this week set new gas tariffs for the industrial sector, hiking the price by 33 percent for new units despite objections from businesses and consumer rights organisations.

According to the new rates announced by the BERC, upcoming industries must pay this new rate, while existing units that use more than their sanctioned load will have to pay the new rate for excess consumption.

In a statement yesterday, FICCI said the newly announced tariff mechanism risks creating unintended barriers for new and expanding industries.

Under the current proposal, businesses with new gas sales agreements (GSAs), increased demand, or recent connections will face significantly higher tariffs compared to existing ones—even within the same industrial classification.

“This differentiated pricing

model presents several challenges. It introduces inequity in energy costs across similar operations, undermines the principle of a level playing field, and could adversely affect Bangladesh’s industrial competitiveness at a time when investment momentum is building,” FICCI said.

The chamber, which represents foreign investors from 35 countries in 21 sectors in Bangladesh, said it may disincentivise new foreign and domestic investments at a critical juncture, just as the government is proactively engaging the global investor community through initiatives such as the recent Bangladesh Investment Summit,

READ MORE ON B3

SATELLITE-BASED INTERNET

Starlink applies for BTRC licence

MAHMUDUL HASAN

Starlink has applied to the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) for a licence to operate in the country as both Elon Musk’s company and the Bangladesh government look to facilitate the faster entry of satellite-based internet services.

“They already applied last week,” Maj Gen Md Emdad Ul Bari, chairman of the BTRC, told The Daily Star yesterday, adding that due process would be followed in awarding the licence.

Earlier, on March 29, the US-based satellite internet service provider received approval from the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) to begin operations in the country.

The final hurdle for Starlink will be securing regulatory approval from the BTRC, the country’s internet regulator.

If approved, Starlink will become the first company to receive a licence under the Non-Geostationary Orbit (NGSO) guidelines introduced on March 25.

According to the policy, the application and processing fee has been set at Tk 5 lakh, with a licence acquisition fee of \$10,000 and an

AT A GLANCE

Starlink applied to BTRC for operating licence

Only Starlink formally applied among global providers

Six more companies showed interest

Satellite internet providers to get 25% discount for local gateway partnerships

No revenue sharing required for first two years

Govt taking steps to prevent future internet shutdowns

Starlink must ensure competitive prices, analysts say

annual fee of \$30,000.

Additionally, an annual station/terminal fee of \$1 per terminal will be charged. However, no charges will apply for terminals used exclusively to provide IoT services.

Licensees will receive a 25 percent reduction in application, processing, acquisition, and annual licence fees if they connect their gateway through the government-owned International Internet Gateway (IIG) for bandwidth or form a partnership or joint venture with a Bangladeshi satellite company.

There will be no revenue-sharing obligation for the first two years.

However, licensees will be required to share 3 percent of gross revenue from the third to the fifth year, and 5.5 percent from the sixth year onward.

In addition to the NGSO licence, companies like Starlink must also obtain a separate Radio Communications Apparatus Licence for non-geostationary orbit satellite services to access the necessary spectrum to launch their services.

In March, Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus directed the authorities to ensure Starlink’s commercial launch within 90 days.

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10 DAYS TO GO

Time to celebrate the remarkable achievements of our young nation builders

24th

The Daily Star HSBC

O&A Level Awards

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NCC Bank signs supply chain finance deal with Pran-RFL Group

STAR BUSINESS DESK

NCC Bank PLC has recently entered into a supply chain finance agreement with Pran-RFL Group, a business conglomerate in Bangladesh, aiming to bolster the financial ecosystem for the latter's suppliers within the SME segment.

M Shamsul Arefin, managing director of the bank, and Uzma Chowdhury, director of the business conglomerate, signed the agreement at the bank's head office in the capital's Motijheel, according to a press release.

This collaboration will enable suppliers of Pran-RFL Group to access financing facilities on favourable terms, thereby supporting their working capital requirements through NCC Bank branches nationwide.

The partnership underscores NCC Bank's dedication to driving business growth via strategic alliances, offering bespoke financial solutions, and enhancing support for the domestic supply chain network of one of the country's most prominent conglomerates.

M Khurshed Alam, additional managing director of the bank; and Md Mahbub Alam, Md Zakir Anam, Mohammed Mizanur Rahman, and Md Monirul Alam, deputy managing directors; Md Shafiqur Rahman, senior executive vice-president and head of business and branch at the Gulshan branch; Mohammad Mohibullah



PHOTO: NCC BANK

Uzma Chowdhury, director of Pran-RFL Group, and M Shamsul Arefin, managing director of NCC Bank PLC, pose for group photographs after signing the agreement at the bank's head office in the capital's Motijheel recently.

Khan, executive vice-president and head of credit risk management division; and Saif Uddin Ahmed, executive vice-president and head of credit administration division, were present.

Among others, Abul Quasem Md Safiullah, chief of Islamic banking division of the bank; Nighat Mumtaz, senior vice-president and head of sustainable and

women's banking; Sharif Mohammad Mahsin, senior vice-president and head of SME; AHM Abdus Sadik Khan, senior vice-president and head of human resources division; Syed Towhid Hossain, senior vice-president and head of operations; and Shahin Akter Nuha, head of transaction banking and cash management division, were also present.

Dhaka Auto Series of Exhibitions 2025 to begin on May 1



Meherun N Islam, president and group managing director of CEMS-Global USA and Asia Pacific, delivers her address during a press conference at the CEMS office in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: CEMS BANGLADESH

STAR BUSINESS DESK

CEMS-Global USA is set to organise the "Dhaka Auto Series of Exhibitions 2025", the nation's largest trade event dedicated to the entire automotive value chain, at the International Convention City Bashundhara (ICCB) in Dhaka, commencing on May 1.

The three-day mega event will encompass five dynamic exhibitions brought together under one roof.

These include the 18th Dhaka Motor Show 2025, 9th Dhaka Bike Show 2025, 8th Dhaka Auto Parts Show 2025, 7th Dhaka Commercial Auto Expo 2025, and the 2nd Dhaka EV Expo 2025.

Meherun N Islam, president and group managing director of CEMS-Global USA and Asia Pacific, announced the upcoming event at a press conference held at the CEMS office in the capital yesterday, according to a press release.

Commenting on the forthcoming exhibitions, Islam remarked, "The Dhaka Auto Series is more than

just an exhibition – it is a catalyst for transformation in Bangladesh's automotive industry."

"With the government's focus on infrastructure and mobility, coupled with rising consumer interest, the 2025 edition will serve as a landmark event, propelling the industry into a new era of innovation and sustainability," she added.

The exhibitions will convene leading global and domestic automotive brands, innovators, suppliers, and buyers on a unified platform.

This year's edition anticipates participation from over 175 exhibitors representing more than 17 countries, who will showcase cutting-edge automotive technologies and mobility solutions across all ICCB exhibition halls.

Tanveer Qamrul Islam, executive director of CEMS-Global, and Asraful Islam, assistant general manager of business development and strategic planning at CEMS Bangladesh, were also present.

Rubana Pervin made DMD of Agrani Bank

STAR BUSINESS DESK



Agrani Bank PLC has recently promoted Rubana Pervin to the post of deputy managing director (DMD).

Prior to this appointment, Pervin was serving the bank as a general manager of the public relations division.

She commenced her professional banking career at Agrani Bank in 1993 as a senior officer, the bank stated in a press release.

Widely admired for her affable demeanour and unwavering professionalism, Pervin has rendered distinguished service with integrity and competence across numerous corporate branches, key divisions, and as the head of various operational circles within the bank.

She obtained her both bachelor's and master's degrees in mathematics from Jahangirnagar University, and did an MBA from the Faculty of Business Studies at the University of Dhaka.

Opec cuts 2025 oil demand forecast

AFP, Paris

Opec slightly lowered its forecast for oil demand growth on Monday, citing the impact of US tariffs on the world economy.

The Saudi-led oil cartel said in a monthly report that it now expects demand to grow by 1.3 million barrels per day (bpd) in 2025, down from a previous forecast of 1.4 million bpd.

The "minor adjustment" was mainly due to first-quarter data and "the expected impact on oil demand given recently announced US tariffs".

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries now sees global demand reaching at total 105.05 million bpd this year.

It also slightly lowered its global economic growth forecast to three percent.

"The global economy showed a steady growth trend at the beginning of the year, however, the near-term trajectory is now subject to higher uncertainty given the recent tariff-related dynamics," Opec said in the report. Oil prices sank to a four-year low last week, dipping under \$60 per barrel over concerns about the impact of President Donald Trump's tariffs.

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তারিখ : ৩০ জুন, ১৪৩১
১৩ এপ্রিল ২০২৫

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগের নাম	: স্থানীয় সরকার বিভাগ, স্থানীয় সরকার, পল্লী উন্নয়ন ও সমবায় মন্ত্রণালয়, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা।
২	প্রতিষ্ঠান	: জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, বাগেরহাট।
৩	ক্রয়/সংগ্রাহক স্বাধিকারীর নাম	: জেলা প্রশাসক, বাগেরহাট
৪	আহ্বানকৃত কাজের ধরণ	: ২০২৪-২০২৫ অর্থবছরে গ্রাম পুলিশদের (দফাদার ও মহল্লাদার) পোশাক ও অন্যান্য সরঞ্জামাদি সরবরাহ।
৫	দরপত্র আহ্বানের সূত্র	: স্থানীয় সরকার বিভাগের ১৬.১০.২০২৪ তারিখের ৪৬.০০.০০০০.০১৮.০২.০০১.১৭(অংশ-২)-১৫২৭ নং স্মারক।
৬	ক্রয় পদ্ধতি	: উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র (OTM)।
৭	অর্থের উৎস	: জিওবি
৮	টেন্ডার এ প্যাকেজ সংখ্যা	: ০১ (এক) টি।
৯	দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ	:
১০	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের তারিখ ও সময়	: ১ম দফাঃ ২০.০৪.২০২৫ তারিখ হতে ১২.০৪.২০২৫ তারিখ, ২য় দফাঃ ২০.০৫.২০২৫ তারিখ হতে ২৮.০৫.২০২৫ তারিখ এবং ৩য় দফাঃ ০৪.০৬.২০২৫ তারিখ হতে ১৮.০৬.২০২৫ তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।
১১	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের স্থান	: জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, স্থানীয় সরকার শাখা, বাগেরহাট; পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, বাগেরহাট; বাগেরহাট জেলার সকল উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসারের কার্যালয় এবং বিভাগীয় কমিশনারের কার্যালয়, খুলনা বিভাগ, খুলনা।
১২	দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	: ১ম দফাঃ ১৪.০৫.২০২৫ তারিখ, ২য় দফাঃ ০২.০৬.২০২৫ তারিখ, ৩য় দফাঃ ২২.০৬.২০২৫ তারিখ সকাল ৯.০০ টা হতে দুপুর ১২.০০ টা পর্যন্ত। জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, স্থানীয় সরকার শাখা, বাগেরহাট; পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, বাগেরহাট; বাগেরহাট জেলার সকল উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসারের কার্যালয় এবং বিভাগীয় কমিশনারের কার্যালয়, খুলনা বিভাগ, খুলনা।
১৩	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	: ১ম দফাঃ ১৪.০৫.২০২৫ তারিখ, ২য় দফাঃ ০২.০৬.২০২৫ তারিখ, ৩য় দফাঃ ২২.০৬.২০২৫ তারিখ বিকাল ৪.০০ টা। অতিরিক্ত জেলা ম্যাজিস্ট্রেট, বাগেরহাট এর অফিস কক্ষ।
১৪	দরপত্র দাতার যোগ্যতা	: (ক) দরদাতার ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন, হালনাগাদ আয়কর পরিশোধের সনদপত্র, হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ন্যূনতম ০১ (এক) কোটি টাকার আর্থিক স্বচ্ছতার ব্যাংক সনদ এবং জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র থাকতে হবে। (খ) দরদাতা ইতোপূর্বে পৃথকভাবে ন্যূনতম ৫০(পঞ্চাশ) লক্ষ টাকা বা তদুর্ধ্ব টাকার গ্রাম পুলিশ বাহিনীর পোশাক ও অন্যান্য সরঞ্জামাদি সরবরাহ করেছেন মর্মে সংশ্লিষ্ট দপ্তর হতে প্রদত্ত অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র থাকতে হবে। (গ) পি.পি.এ-২০০৬ এবং পি.পি.আর- ২০০৮ এ বর্ণিত দরপত্র সিডিউলে উল্লিখিত দরদাতার বিস্তারিত যোগ্যতা অনুযায়ী দরপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে।
১৫	দরপত্র দাখিলের পদ্ধতি	: (ক) দরপত্রের সাথে দরদাতার ২কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের সত্যায়িত ছবি, সরকারি/আধাসরকারি ও স্বায়ত্বশাসিত সংস্থায় একই ধরনের কার্যসম্পাদনের অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র, হাল নাগাদ আয়কর পরিশোধের প্রত্যয়ন পত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি, ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ভ্যাট নিবন্ধন সনদ, ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সনদ, নাগরিকত্ব/জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের সত্যায়িত ছায়াছবিপিসহ যেখানে যা প্রয়োজন জমা দিতে হবে। দরপত্র সীলমোহরকৃত খামে কাজের নাম ও দরদাতার নাম, ঠিকানা সমেত দাখিল করতে হবে এবং সরবরাহযোগ্য মালামালের নমুনা প্রতিটির ০১(এক) সেট করে দাখিল করতে হবে। জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, বাগেরহাট এর স্থানীয় সরকার শাখায় রক্ষিত পোশাক ও অন্যান্য সরঞ্জামাদির নমুনা অথবা তদুর্ধ্ব মানের নমুনা দরপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে। নির্ধারিত নমুনার অনুরূপ অথবা তদুর্ধ্ব মানের নমুনা দাখিল করা না হলে দরপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে। (খ) দরপত্রে উল্লিখিত সর্বমোট দরের শতকরা ৩ (তিন) ভাগ (৩০%) অর্থ দরপত্র আমানত হিসেবে (ফেরতযোগ্য) এবং বোটিফিকেশন অর্থ এ্যাওয়ার্ড গ্রাণ্ড দরদাতাকে উদ্ধৃত দরের ১০% অর্থ কাজের আমানত (গারফরন্যাস সিউরিটি) জেলা প্রশাসক, বাগেরহাট এর অনুকূলে তফসিলভুক্ত যে কোন ব্যাংকের ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার হিসেবে জমা প্রদান করতে হবে। পারফরম্যান্স সিউরিটি নির্ধারিত সময়সীমায় ফেরতযোগ্য।
১৬	দরদাতাদের প্রতি বিশেষ নির্দেশনা	: (ক) দরপত্র দাতাগণকে পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট এ্যাক্ট, ২০০৬ এবং পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা, ২০০৮ এর সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রবিধানসমূহ মনেতে রাখা থাকবে; (খ) দরপত্রে স্পষ্টভাবে উদ্ধৃত দর অংকে ও কথায় লিখতে হবে; (গ) দরপত্রে কোন কাটাকাটি ও ঘষামাছা করা যাবে না; (ঘ) দরপত্র ক্রয়ের সময় হালনাগাদ আয়কর ও ট্রেড লাইসেন্স এবং ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সনদপত্র এর সত্যায়িত কপি, অভিজ্ঞতার সনদ, ন্যূনতম ০১ (এক) কোটি টাকার ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সনদ ইত্যাদি দরপত্র বিক্রয়কারীর নিকট প্রদর্শন করে দরপত্র ক্রয় করতে হবে; (ঙ) সরবরাহযোগ্য পোশাক ও অন্যান্য সরঞ্জামাদির প্রকৃত সংখ্যা/পরিমাণ গ্রাম পুলিশদের সংখ্যার উপর নির্ভর করে, বিধায় কার্যাদেশে প্রকৃত সংখ্যা/পরিমাণ উল্লেখ করা হবে এবং পরিমাণ/সংখ্যা কমানো/বর্ধিত করা হতে পারে;

		(চ) সরকার কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত নমুনা মোতাবেক গ্রাম পুলিশগণ (দফাদার ও মহল্লাদার)-এর পোশাক ও জুতার মাপ যথাযথভাবে গ্রহণ করে তাদের শরীরের মাপ মোতাবেক জামা ও প্যান্ট, জুতা ও অন্যান্য সামগ্রী সরবরাহ নিশ্চিত করতে হবে;	
		(ছ) সঠিক মাপের ও গুণগত মানসম্পন্ন পোশাক, জুতা ও অন্যান্য সামগ্রী সরবরাহ না করা হলে সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান নিজে খরচে তা ফেরত নিয়ে পরিবর্তন করে দিতে বাধ্য থাকবেন এবং এ বিষয়ে দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন ধরনের আইনগত স্বাধা গ্রহণ করতে পারবেন;	
		১ম দফার দরপত্র গ্রহণযোগ্য না হলে পর্যায়েক্রমে ২য় ও ৩য় দফায় নির্ধারিত তারিখে দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয় ও গ্রহণ করা হবে। ১ম দফার দরপত্র গ্রহণযোগ্য মর্মে বিবেচিত হলে ২য় ও ৩য় দফায় নির্ধারিত তারিখে দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয় ও গ্রহণ করা হবে না।	
কাজের বিবরণ			
ক্রমসং	মালামালের নাম	মালামালের বিবরণ	সংখ্যা
১	ফুলপ্যান্ট	(খাকি রঙের)-২টি করেx ৬৬৫ জন (পুরুষদের)	১৩৩০ টি
২	জামা	২টি করে (১টি ফুল, ১টি হাফ) (নীল রঙের) x ৬৬৫ জন (পুরুষদের)	১৩৩০ টি
৩	শাড়ী	২টি করে (মহিলা পুলিশের অনুরূপ)x ১১ জন	২২টি
৪	ব্লাউজ	২টি করে (মহিলা পুলিশের অনুরূপ)x ১১ জন	২২টি
৫	শোভার ব্যাচ	দফাদারদের জন্য- শোভার ব্যাচ পারপেল কালার, ফোর পয়েন্টেড ক্রস খাকি কালার, ফোর পয়েন্টেড ক্রস এর মধ্যে বোম্বেল, আকাশি রঙের রিবন এবং গ্রাম পুলিশ লেখাটি সাদা। মহল্লাদারদের জন্য- পারপেল কালার, আকাশি রঙের রিবন এবং গ্রাম পুলিশ লেখাটি সাদা।	৬৭৬ জোড়া
৬	মোজাসহ কাপড়ের জুতা	১ জোড়া করেx ৬৭৬ জন	৬৭৬ জোড়া
৭	বেশ্ট	১টি করে x ৬৭৬ জন	৬৭৬ টি
৮	মাথার ক্যাপ (মনোগ্রামসহ)	১ টি করে x ৬৭৭ জন	৬৭৭ টি
৯	জ্যাকেট	১ টি করে x ৬৭৭ জন	৬৭৭ টি
১০	কার্ডিগান	১ টি করে x ১১ জন	১১ টি
১১	উলের জামা (পুরুষদের)	১টি করে x ৬৪৬ জন	৬৪৬ টি
১২	মোজাসহ চামড়ার জুতা	১ জোড়া করেx ৬৭৭ জন	৬৭৭ জোড়া
১৩	৪.৫০ ভোল্ট চার্জার টর্চলাইট	১ টি করে x৬৫৭ জন	৬৫৭ টি
১৪	লায়নার বীলি	১টি করেx৬৫৭ জন	৬৫৭ টি
১৫	বেতের লাঠি	১ টি করে x ৬৭৭ জন	৬৭৭ টি
১৬	ছাতা (মনোগ্রামসহ)	১ টি করে x৬৫৭ জন	৬৫৭ টি
১৭	রেইন কোট	১ টি করে x ৬০১ জন	৬০১ টি
১৮	সাইড ব্যাগ	১ টি করে x ৬০১ জন	২০ টি
১৯	বাই সাইকেল (মহিলা)	১ টি করে x ০১ জন	০১ টি
২০	নাম ফলক	১টি করে x ৬৭৬ জন	৬৭৬ টি
ক্রমকারী সংস্থার বিস্তারিত তথ্যাদিঃ			
২০	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর নাম	:	আহমেদ কামরুল হাসান
২১	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর পদবী	:	জেলা প্রশাসক, বাগেরহাট।
২২	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর ঠিকানা	:	জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, বাগেরহাট।
২৩	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর ফোন নম্বর	:	০২৪৭৭৭৫২৫১৫
২৪	কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতীতকে যে কোন অথবা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ কিংবা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করে।	:	
২৫	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি জেলা প্রশাসক, বাগেরহাট- এর ওয়েবসাইট	:	www.bagerhat.gov.bd এ পাওয়া যাবে।

০৫/০৪/২০২৫
(আহমেদ কামরুল হাসান)
জেলা প্রশাসক
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GD-890

Apparel makers urge NBR to retain current tax rates in FY26

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Garment makers in Bangladesh have urged the country's revenue authority to leave the existing corporate tax rates unchanged in the upcoming national budget for fiscal year (FY) 2025-26.

Inamul Haq Khan, a member of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association's support committee, made this request at a pre-budget meeting with the National Board of Revenue (NBR) at its headquarters in Dhaka yesterday.

Currently, the corporate tax is 12 percent for export-oriented garment factories and 10 percent for green factories. These rates will remain effective until June 30, 2028.

"Changing the corporate tax rate will erode the confidence of local and foreign entrepreneurs and go against the spirit of the recently concluded investment summit," Khan said.

He also highlighted that the price of gas has risen to Tk 40, warning that industries cannot survive under such conditions.

"This isn't the right time to raise corporate taxes," Khan added.

In response, NBR Chairman Abdur Rahman Khan reiterated the board's commitment to eliminating discriminatory tax practices and reducing exemptions.

"We want to move away from the ad hoc exemptions granted over the years," he said. "If there is consensus, we're ready to implement that."

"This is a crucial moment. People across the country are standing against all forms of discrimination," Khan added. "It's essential to make tax rates as uniform as possible so that no group is treated differently."

The Bangladesh Textile Mills Association also placed demands, including rationalising the



valuation of fabric imports and resolving complications related to HS codes and valuation.

At the meeting, the SME Foundation proposed allowing quarterly VAT return submissions for SMEs with an annual turnover of up to Tk 5 crore.

It also sought a 10-year tax holiday for leather, leather goods, garment accessories, and backward linkage industries.

Separately, the Bangladesh

Society for the Change and Advocacy Nexus (B-SCAN), a volunteer organisation, urged the NBR to raise the tax-free income threshold for persons with disabilities to Tk 6 lakh from the existing Tk 4.75 lakh.

It also demanded raising their monthly allowance to Tk 5,000, depending on the type of disability, and suggested increasing taxes on tobacco products to offset the cost.

Make budget based on global

perspective; Economists

Economists have called on the government to design the upcoming national budget with careful consideration of both the domestic economic landscape and prevailing global economic trends and challenges.

Professor Mahbub Ullah, convener of the Bangladesh Economic Association's interim committee, said Trump's tariff policies are disrupting the global economic order, slowing globalisation, and triggering retaliatory trade barriers that are expected to cause significant turmoil.

"So, Bangladesh must not craft its budget in isolation – we must look outward, read global signals, and proceed with extreme caution," he said. "It is time to tighten our belts, not expand them."

Mahbub also proposed raising the tax-free income threshold from the current Tk 3.5 lakh to Tk 6 lakh.

Yarn import curb

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Hoque added that exporters can buy yarn at lower prices from India. "Such a restriction is not right in an open market economy," he said.

Hoque, also a former president of the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA), said the NBR curbed yarn imports via land ports in 2004 on allegations of misuse, adding that the NBR had shifted the burden of its inefficiencies onto exporters.

"The question is why the NBR failed to build its capacity to check misuse of imports through land ports," he said. "The NBR should keep yarn imports open for export-oriented factories."

"The authorities should take measures to prevent any sort of irregularities, but they must keep the option for the quick import of yarn open."

Sharif Zahir, managing director of Ananta Group, a major apparel exporter, said importing through seaways would increase

the lead times of garment exporters by up to two weeks.

"This has been done to protect spinners. But the government should give priority to garments," he said.

Zahir said such measures should be temporary in view of the bilateral relationship between the two countries.

However, the Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) said in a statement that the backward linkage industries of the textile sector would be strengthened following the curb on yarn imports through land routes.

This will save foreign currency and increase local value addition, the BTMA said. Besides, this will also prevent money laundering through informal money transfers such as hundi, it added.

The BTMA believes the NBR will have full control if yarn is brought over through seaports.

BTMA President Showkat Aziz Russell said exporters bring yarn from India's Gujarat through

seaports. So, the curb on imports through land ports will not affect exporters. Instead, it will be helpful for the local weaving sector, he added.

India last week revoked the transshipment facility offered to Bangladesh's export cargo destined for third countries via its land borders to Indian airports and seaports. However, the neighbouring country claimed that the move would not affect Dhaka's trade with Nepal and Bhutan through Indian territory.

The measure is expected to increase costs for Bangladesh's apparel exporters, many of whom ship orders to Western markets through Indian airports, particularly the Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi.

Previously, exporters transported goods overland through the Benapole-Petrapole border en route to Indian airports, including those in Kolkata and Delhi, for onward air shipment to global destinations.

NBR plans

FROM PAGE B1

Officials told the IMF that scrapping all exemptions by June would be impossible, given the country's current economic challenges.

Of the additional Tk 57,000 crore demanded, the NBR believes it can raise only Tk 8,000 crore – about one-seventh – through new policy measures in FY26.

"We are still negotiating with the IMF officials," said a senior NBR official.

Another official commented that while the board does plan to gradually eliminate reduced tax rates across the board, doing so for the garment sector remains particularly challenging amid the new Trump tariffs, which are currently on a temporary three-month pause.

"The NBR is now facing a double whammy. We need to move very carefully," the official added.

Exporters on edge Mohammad Abdur Razzaque, chairman of the Research and Policy Integration for Development (RAPID), criticised the move.

"I don't think so. It would be a totally unwise move amid such volatility and uncertainty," he said.

He suggested the NBR should instead remove other exemptions, excluding those given to exporters.

"Our balance of payments is under pressure, and forex reserves have not improved to an expected

level," he added.

With Bangladesh set to phase out many tax concessions as part of its LDC graduation next year, Razzaque emphasised caution.

On several occasions, NBR Chairman Md Abdur Rahman Khan reiterated the board's commitment to rationalising tax incentives. But exporters remain apprehensive, pointing to a turbulent business climate and a bleak outlook for global trade.

At a pre-budget discussion at NBR headquarters in Agargaon yesterday, Inamul Haq Khan – a member of the support committee at the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) – said that changing the corporate tax regime could erode business confidence.

"Changing the corporate tax rate will erode the confidence of local and foreign entrepreneurs," he said, adding that the move also contradicts the spirit of the recently concluded investment summit.

Towfiqul Islam Khan, a senior research fellow at local think tank Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), urged the NBR to tackle inefficiency and corruption alongside any gradual withdrawal of tax breaks.

"Exemptions must be phased out gradually. But removing them all at once would put immense pressure on the economy."

Foreign investors

FROM PAGE B1

which drew participants from nearly 50 countries.

"A transparent and equitable energy pricing framework is fundamental to sustaining investor confidence and industrial growth," said FICCI President Zaved Akhtar.

"While we understand the evolving demands of energy management, we urge the BERC to revisit this approach and ensure that policy changes align with the broader goals of economic development and FDI attraction."

The trade body said the provision to treat any new GSA as a new connection – even for long-standing industrial users – introduces ambiguity and could lead to arbitrary reclassification.

"This could inadvertently disrupt existing business continuity and create administrative and operational uncertainty," it said, adding that new GSAs with existing customers should not fall under the tariff for new connections.

FICCI said that during the public hearing held on February 26, 2025, industry stakeholders collectively expressed strong reservations about the proposed tariff structure.

It also emphasised the importance of continuing dialogue with all relevant stakeholders, including foreign and domestic investors, to ensure that energy reforms support inclusive and sustainable

industrial growth.

In a separate press release, EuroCham acknowledged the government's efforts toward a sustainable energy future and appreciated the progress made in energy sector reforms.

However, the chamber remains concerned about the recently announced gas tariff structure, which introduces differential pricing based on industrial consumers' contractual timelines and gas connections.

While recognising the complexity of energy policy, EuroCham believes that the current model – placing higher tariffs on new and expanding industries – may unintentionally undermine Bangladesh's competitiveness and investment appeal.

Fragmented energy costs within the same sector risk discouraging both foreign and domestic investment at a time when Bangladesh is actively positioning itself as an attractive global business destination.

Nuria Lopez, chairperson of EuroCham Bangladesh, said that maintaining a predictable and balanced energy tariff regime is essential for ensuring investor confidence and supporting industrial expansion.

"We believe a collaborative approach to policy design can help avoid business disruptions and send a positive signal to potential investors," Lopez added.

Starlink applies

FROM PAGE B1

BTRC Chairman Bari said that around half a dozen global satellite providers have expressed interest in offering satellite services in Bangladesh. However, so far, only Starlink has formally applied.

Starlink has been trying to enter the Bangladeshi market since 2021.

In April last year, BTRC approved the formation of a committee comprising officials from various divisions to draft guidelines for satellite-based internet services. The draft was completed in October 2024.

In the final guideline, satellite service providers were instructed to route internet traffic through

DSE asks Beacon Pharma to explain why it stopped direct exports

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) has sought an explanation from Beacon Pharmaceuticals regarding why the medicine manufacturer stopped its exports abroad without issuing any disclosure on the website of the premier bourse.

The DSE informed shareholders about seeking clarification from Beacon through a disclosure yesterday.

On March 27, the Dhaka bourse sent the query to Beacon based on a news item published in The Daily Star on the same day.

The drug maker issued a disclosure on the DSE website yesterday, stating:

"Beacon Pharmaceuticals PLC has always remained committed to complying with the regulatory requirements of Dhaka Stock Exchange PLC."

"As a publicly listed company, we consistently publish our financial statements and price-sensitive information (PSI) on a quarterly basis. In addition, our annual report provides a comprehensive overview of the company's financial performance, strategies, and other relevant disclosures."

অগ্রণী ব্যাংক পিএলসি.
Agrani Bank PLC.
Committed to serve the nation
Website: www.agranibank.org
দেশ ও জাতির সেবায় প্রতিশ্রুতিবদ্ধ

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-০১/২০২৫

তারিখঃ ১-১৬/০৪/২০২৫

বিষয়- অগ্রণী ব্যাংক পিএলসি. এ তালিকাভুক্ত আইনজীবীর ০২ (দুই) বছর মেয়াদে নবায়ন এবং নতুন আইনজীবী ০২ (দুই) বছর মেয়াদে তালিকাভুক্তকরণের নিমিত্তে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান প্রদেয়।

অগ্রণী ব্যাংক পিএলসি., ল' ডিভিশন, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা কর্তৃক অত্র ব্যাংকের সকল সার্কেল/কর্ণগেটে শাখা/আঞ্চলিক কার্যালয় ও তাদের আওতাধীন শাখাসমূহের আইনগত সহায়তা/পরামর্শ প্রদান এবং মাফা পরিচালনার নিমিত্ত বিদ্যমান তালিকাভুক্ত আইনজীবীর ০২ (দুই) বছর মেয়াদে নবায়নের লক্ষ্যে নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্তে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। এছাড়াও নতুনভাবে আইনজীবী ০২ (দুই) বছর মেয়াদে তালিকাভুক্তকরণের জন্য অগ্রণী আইনজীবীপন নিম্নোক্ত শর্তে আবেদনপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

পদের নাম	শিক্ষাপত্র যোগ্যতা	অভিজ্ঞতা
প্যানেল আইনজীবী (Panel Lawyer)	(১) আইন বিষয়ের কনসল্ট্যান্ট/স্ন্যাকট (সহায়ক) ডিগ্রিধারী। (২) আইনজীবীর শিক্ষা ক্ষেত্রে একাধিক তৃতীয় বিভাগ/প্রবীণ প্রশংসাপত্র নয়। তবে ইতোপূর্বে তালিকাভুক্ত আইনজীবীর সন্তোষজনক পারফরমেন্স (Key Performance Indicator) থাকা সাপেক্ষে উহা শিল্পক্ষেত্রঃ (৩) এলএল.এম /বার-এট-ল ডিগ্রিধারী অভ্যন্তরীণ শিক্ষাপত্র যোগ্যতা গণ্য হবে; (৪) বাংলাদেশ বার কাউন্সিলের সদস্যধারী।	(১) ঢাকা মহানগরী এলাকার ক্ষেত্রে আইনজীবীর অধঃস্থ আদালতে ৫ বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা এবং বাংলাদেশ সূরীম কোর্ট এর হাইকোর্ট বিভাগে ২(দুই) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতাসহ মোট ০৭(সাত) বছরের পেশাপত্র অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে; (২) ঢাকা মহানগরীর বাইরের গ্রামীণের ক্ষেত্রে সনদ প্রাপ্ত আইনজীবীর অধঃস্থ আদালতে মোট ০৭ (সাত) বছরের স্নাকট পেশাপত্র অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে; (৩) বাংলাদেশ সূরীম কোর্ট এর হাইকোর্ট বিভাগ ও আপীল বিভাগ এবং প্রশাসনিক ট্রাইব্যুনালে মাফা পরিচালনার জন্য কেসলমার সূরীম কোর্ট এর বার এসোসিয়েশনের তালিকাভুক্ত বিজ আইনজীবীর অধিকার দেয়া হবে।

শর্তাবলী :

০১। গ্রামীণেরকে বাংলাদেশের নাগরিক হতে হবে। ঢাকা মহানগর এলাকার, অধঃস্থ আদালতসমূহ, মহামাফা সূরীম কোর্টের হাইকোর্ট ও আপীল বিভাগসহ এবং প্রশাসনিক আপীল ট্রাইব্যুনালে ব্যাংকের পক্ষে মাফা পরিচালনার নিমিত্ত তালিকাভুক্তির জন্য ২(দুই) সেট আবেদনপত্র উপমহাব্যবস্থাপক, অগ্রণী ব্যাংক পিএলসি., ল' ডিভিশন, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা ব্যাবহার প্রেরণ করতে হবে। ঢাকা বিভাগ অধ্যক্ষ এলাকার তালিকাভুক্তির জন্য সংশ্লিষ্ট এলাকার অবস্থিত কর্পোরেট শাখা বা অফিস প্রধান ব্যাবহার নির্ধারিত তারিখে অফিস চলাকালে ২ (দুই) সেট আবেদনপত্র পৌঁছাতে হবে।

০২। ব্যাংকের পক্ষে মাফা-মোকদমা ও অন্যান্য আইনগত কার্যাবলী পরিচালনার জন্য তালিকাভুক্ত আইনজীবীপন ব্যাংকের প্রদত্ত বিধি ও সময় সময় জারীকৃত সার্কেল/কর্ণগেটের অনুযায়ী পেশাপত্র ফি ও অন্যান্য ব্যয় প্রাপ্য হবেন। তবে ক্ষেত্রে মাসিক ভিত্তিতে কোন বেতন বা সম্মানী প্রাপ্য হবেন না।

০৩। আইনজীবী হিসেবে তালিকাভুক্তির মেয়াদ ০২ (দুই) বছরের জন্য কার্যকর থাকবে। বিদ্যমান তালিকাভুক্ত আইনজীবীপন তাদের অত্র ব্যাংকের পারফরম্যান্সসহ নবায়নের জন্য আবেদন করতে হবে। অন্যথায় আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণযোগ্য মর্মে বিবেচিত হবে না এবং নবায়নের জন্য আবেদন না করলে তালিকাভুক্তির জন্য বিবেচিত হবেন না।

০৪। অগ্রগণ্যতা :

(ক) সৌজন্যের অপরূপে সহযোগিতা/সহায়তা বা বিভিন্ন কারণে ব্যাংকের তালিকা হতে যান পড়া আইনজীবী;
(খ) যুক্তি বিবেচনা কোন কর্মকাণ্ডে জড়িত অথবা আদালত, অফিস ও সেলিক খন্দসূচক ব্যক্তি;
(গ) কোন প্রতিষ্ঠান/ল' ফর্ম কর্তৃক আবেদন করা হলে তা' যোগ্য বিবেচিত হবে না এবং
(ঘ) অসম্পূর্ণ আবেদনপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।

০৫। ব্যাংকের ব্যাবহারী বা বিবাহীর সাথে যোগদান আত্মতা এর মাধ্যমে তথ্য পাচার করলে বা বিবাহীর পক্ষে অর্থ বা ব্যাংকের বিরুদ্ধে কোন মামলায় অংশগ্রহণ করলে এবং যেকোন আদালত/বার কাউন্সিল কর্তৃক সহযোগিতা হলে তালিকাভুক্ত আইনজীবী হতে কোন কারণ দর্শালে ব্যক্তিগত তালিকাভুক্ত করা হবে।

অগ্রণী প্রাথমিক সনদ সনাক্তকরণের সময়সীমা, বাংলাদেশ বার কাউন্সিলের তালিকাভুক্তির সময়সীমা, বাংলাদেশ সূরীম কোর্ট এর হাইকোর্ট বিভাগে তালিকাভুক্তির সময়সীমা, জাতীয় পরিচালনা/স্নাকট এর সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি এবং সনদ তেলো ২(দুই) কপি পাশপোর্ট আকারের সত্যায়িত রঙিন ছবি, ই-মেইল আইডি, হোয়াটসঅপ আইডি এবং মোবাইল নম্বরসহ পূর্ণাঙ্গ বৃত্তান্ত আদায়ী ২৫/০৪/২০২৫ তারিখের মধ্যে ০২(দুই) সেট আবেদনপত্র বিনামূল্যে এলাকার তালিকাভুক্ত হতে তান তিনি তৎপরতা কার্যপত্র অর্থ বা ডিভিশন/ সার্কেল/ আঞ্চলিক কার্যালয়/ কর্পোরেট শাখায় পৌঁছাতে হবে।

তালিকাভুক্ত সন্তোষজনক সনদ সনাক্তকরণ ল' ডিভিশন সন্তোষজনক করে।

(আবেদন গ্রহণ শিকদার)
উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক
ও
সদস্য সচিব

আইনজীবী তালিকাভুক্তকরণ সন্তোষজনক বাছাই কমিটি
অগ্রণী ব্যাংক পিএলসি., প্রধান কার্যালয়, ল' ডিভিশন
১০, মিললুকা, টাউন-১৬, ঢাকা।
ফোন নং-০২-২২৩৩৮১৫১১

GD-886

**BANGLADESH INSTITUTE OF PEACE SUPPORT OPERATION
TRAINING (BIPSOT), RAJENDRAPUR CANTONMENT, GAZIPUR**

Invitation for Tender

1	Name of institution	Bangladesh Institute of Peace Support Operation Training, Rajendrapur Cantonment
2	Description of work	Installation of closed circuit camera system to strengthen security measures to enhance the operational capabilities of BIPSOT
3	Price of schedule	Mentioned tender will be available for purchase at the cost of 2000.00 BD Taka.
4	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM).
5	Security	3% security money needs to be deposited during tender collection and 10% security money will be kept after reception of work order.
6	Document requirement	Quotation for unit and collective price, genuine trade license, TIN Certificate, Income Tax Certificate, Vat Registration Certificate and Bank Statement (Attested copy) etc.
7	Tender sale	From the day of advertisement in national daily news upto 24 April 2025
8	Tender submit	30 April 2025, Important to note no tender will be accepted after the mentioned date.
9	Tender submit to	To be submitted to President, Purchased Committee
10	Tender opening	04 May 2025 at 1200 hrs (in the presence of all contractor)
11	Work time	After 15 days of reception of Work Order
12	Other instruction	All aspects mentioned in the schedule to be submitted as per instructions.

Note: Authority can be changed Tender in anytime.

আই এস পি আর/সেনা/২৯৭

GD-889

Commandant
Bangladesh Institute of Peace Support
Operation Training, Rajendrapur Cantonment

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Upazila Engineer
Sonaimuri, Noakhali.
www.lged.sonaimuri.gov.bd

Memo. No-46.02.7583.000.99.002.25-340

Date: 15-04-2025

e-Tender Notice No: 04/2024-2025(OTM)

e-Tender is invited the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of following work,details are given below.

Sl	Package No	Name of Work	Tender Last Selling (Date & Time)	Tender Security submission (Date & Time)	Tender closing (Date & Time)	Tender Opening (Date & Time)	Tender ID
01	e-Tender/ PEDP-4/NKL/ SON/ 2024- 25/ W20-680	Repair and Renovation work of Sonaimuri UEO under PEDP4 at Sonaimuri ,Noakhali.	30-04-25 16.00 PM	30-04-25 16.30 PM	30-04-25 17.00 PM	30-04-25 17.00 PM	1097297

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no Off line/Hard copies will be accepted to submit e-Tender, Registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks Branches.Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(Md. Emraddul Haque)
Upazila Engineer
LGED,Sonaimuri
Noakhali
Phone:- 880233-4496214
ue.sonaimuri@lged.gov.bd

GD-888

Bangladesh feels like South Korea of the 80s

Giordano Korea CEO sees ‘familiar signs of promise’ as he plans a factory in economic zone

JAGARAN CHAKMA

In the 1980s, South Korea embarked on an economic transformation that would turn it into a global manufacturing powerhouse driven by export-led industrialisation, strategic investments, and an increasingly skilled labour force.

Around four decades later, Bangladesh, with its competitive workforce and growing industrial ecosystem, seems to be treading a similar path.

One of the keen observers of this evolution is Junseok Han, chairman and CEO of Giordano Korea, a retail giant that has become a household name across Asia.

Visiting Bangladesh for the first time to attend the Bangladesh Investment Summit 2025, Han was struck by what he called “familiar signs of promise”.

Speaking to The Daily Star on the sidelines of the recently concluded summit, Han drew parallels between Bangladesh's current economic climate and Korea's growth phase decades ago.

“This country reminds me of where Korea was 30 to 40 years ago,” Han said.

“There's tremendous opportunity here, especially in manufacturing and exports,” he added.

Han's remarks come at a time when Korean interest in Bangladesh is steadily growing, and his visit signals a deeper intent to expand business operations in the country.

With plans to expand sourcing and potentially set up a manufacturing base, Giordano Korea could become the next big foreign player betting on Bangladesh's economic ascent.

Under Han's leadership, Giordano Korea saw its sales soar from two billion won (South Korea's currency) in 1994 to a 100-fold increase within the next six years.


By 2003, it became the most popular women's casual clothing brand in Korea.

Now, Han is setting his sights on Bangladesh, seeing it as the next chapter in his global journey.

“This is my first visit to Bangladesh, and I must say I'm deeply impressed,” Han began, fresh from a series of meetings with government officials and business leaders.

“I met capable individuals, including ministers, chairmen and young professionals. They're highly attuned to global business trends. The country's leadership is strong and forward thinking. I believe the future is bright for Bangladesh under their guidance.”

Han's visit was part of a broader strategy to explore sourcing and manufacturing



ECONOMIC PARALLEL

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Bangladesh reminds me of Korea 30 to 40 years back

Giordano Korea CEO Junseok Han

INVESTMENT AND EXPANSION PLANS

Giordano Korea plan to establish a manufacturing base in Bangladesh

Han aims to triple annual sourcing from Bangladesh within five years

“There's tremendous opportunity here,” he says

Perception and impressions

Han says he's “deeply impressed” by Bangladesh's leadership and business environment

“I met ministers and young professionals who understand global trends,” Han notes

Sectoral opportunities

➤ Han sees potential in garments, electronics assembly, and light auto components

➤ Bangladesh's skilled and educated workforce seen as a major draw for foreign investors

Challenges and recommendations

➤ Han calls for urgent improvements in logistics, lead times, and port infrastructure

➤ “Streamlining export processes would make a massive difference,” he says

Korean investment

Han says 27 Korean companies are eyeing business growth in Bangladesh

opportunities in emerging markets. With existing procurement ties in Vietnam, Myanmar, and Indonesia, Han believes Bangladesh is now firmly in that league, if not ahead. Asked what makes Bangladesh attractive to foreign investors, Han pointed first to its people.

“The individuals I've met -- especially younger professionals and factory workers -- are skilled and well-educated. That's a major asset,” he said.

He likened Bangladesh's current state to South Korea in the 1970s and 80s -- a time when the Korean economy transitioned from agrarian roots into an industrial powerhouse.

“I see Bangladesh at a similar juncture now. Labour costs are still competitive, and that creates a fertile ground for manufacturing-led growth.”

Han said Bangladesh has strong prospects in its labour-intensive sectors, such as garment production, electronics assembly, and light automotive components.

Despite his optimism, Han didn't shy away from pointing out the challenges -- particularly in logistics.

“Transportation is not convenient yet. Lead times are long, and this makes it hard to manage delivery schedules. Port access and shipping infrastructure need immediate attention.”

“Focus on infrastructure. Streamline export processes and reduce lead times. Doing that alone would make a massive difference.”

Han confirmed that Giordano Korea is not just here to observe but actively plans to establish a factory in one of Bangladesh's economic zones to ramp up production for exports to Korea and beyond.

“We currently source about \$5-10 million worth of products annually from Bangladesh,” Han said. “We aim to triple that amount within the next five years.”

A recent visit to Youngone Corporation in Chattogram, one of Bangladesh's leading exporters, solidified his resolve.

“Their production capacity is impressive. It convinced us to expand our procurement footprint here,” he added.

Reflecting on the investment summit, Han was enthusiastic.

“I've had meaningful discussions with many influential people here,” he said.

“Once I return to Seoul, I will initiate steps to strengthen our sourcing and investment strategies, with Bangladesh at the centre.”

Han sees opportunities beyond just Giordano.

“Korean companies are definitely interested in Bangladesh. Hyundai, KIA, Samsung, and LG are already here, and more are exploring entry. I believe Bangladesh offers a favourable environment for Korean investors looking for long-term growth.”

Han's optimism is rooted not only in data and forecasts but in a deeper vision of shared progress.

“There's so much potential here,” he said. “If Bangladesh can overcome its infrastructure hurdles, I believe it will not just catch up, it will lead.”

He also said that representatives and inventors of 27 companies from South Korea were interested in growing business with Bangladesh.

The CEO said that Youngone Corporation Chairman Kihak Sung is a pioneer in Bangladesh's readymade garments and textile sectors and is ideal for Korean investors.

Why some nations rise while others stagnate

ASHIKUR RAHMAN

Why do some nations prosper while others remain mired in poverty or stagnation? Why do countries that once showed promise -- like Argentina or South Africa -- struggle to sustain momentum? And what allows certain countries, such as Japan or China, to achieve lasting economic transformation?

These are among the most enduring puzzles in political economy, eluding definitive answers even today. Moreover, for countries like Bangladesh, which aspires to undergo transformative change in the coming decades, these inquiries are not only intrinsically essential but instrumentally fundamental.

Despite decades of scholarship, there exists no single convincing theory that fully explains why some countries climb the ladder of development while others slip or remain stuck.

Is it due to geography? Historical injustices? Poor policy choices? Or is the game rigged, with global rules designed by and for the wealthy -- as one can argue after witnessing the ongoing Trump tariff saga.

Some argue that geography -- landlocked borders, harsh climates and limited natural resources -- act as structural constraints. Others point to external domination, citing colonial exploitation in India or decades-long sanctions in Cuba as key reasons for economic decline or stagnation.

Then there is the internal dimension: how domestic elites shape institutions to extract rents rather than foster innovation and productivity. The Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire), with its vast resources but kleptocratic leadership, serves as a textbook example of this phenomenon.

Importantly, these explanations are not mutually exclusive. At different points in history, various combinations of these forces have been at play. Consider Japan under the Tokugawa Shogunate (1603-1868), when isolationist policies limited exposure to trade and technological change. Or India, whose economy withered under British colonial rule -- from contributing nearly 25 percent to the global GDP in 1757 to less than 5 percent by 1947.

And yet, other nations have managed to pivot. Japan's Meiji Restoration in 1868 marks a dramatic reversal: the state realigned its priorities to support export-oriented industries like silk and shipbuilding, integrating

into the global economy. Similarly, China's economic reforms post-1978, driven by a strong political mandate, unlocked decades of sustained industrial growth and poverty reduction.

The lesson here is not that there's a universal recipe for development, but rather that success often hinges on a country's capacity to adapt. High-performing nations do not avoid setbacks altogether; rather, they possess the institutional resilience to minimise downturns and capitalise on global opportunities. They actively reshape their domestic economies to align with shifting global demand, embedding themselves in global value chains.

For developing nations seeking transformative change like Bangladesh, the imperative is twofold. First, they must rigorously analyse specific barriers -- be they structural, institutional, or political -- that are impeding their progress. Second, they must engage in cautious yet bold experimentation, crafting policies and building institutions that foster competitiveness, innovation and global integration.

Above all, policymakers must recognise that the forces impeding development are dynamic and context-specific. There is no universal roadmap. What worked for South Korea or Singapore may not work elsewhere. A deep, historical understanding of one's own developmental constraints, paired with a willingness to adapt and learn, is essential. Thus, to truly attain transformative developmental change, nations must shed both the fatalism of structural determinism and the allure of simplistic policy mimicry. Only then can they chart a course that is both nationally rooted and globally relevant.

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EU tariffs on US goods suspended until July 14

AFP, Brussels

The EU's retaliatory tariffs on US goods worth 21 billion euros will be on hold until July 14, Brussels said on Monday, to give time for negotiations with Washington.

The European Union was hit with a 20 percent rate as part of Trump's sweeping tariffs on April 2, before he suspended the measures for 90 days a week later.

To give breathing room for negotiations, the EU in turn last week halted its countermeasures on previously enacted US tariffs on steel and aluminium, and on the auto sector -- which remain in place.

The EU's pause will “take legal effect” on Tuesday, the European Commission said. EU trade chief Maros Sefcovic was in Washington Monday for talks with US counterparts in the hope of an agreement before the 90 days are over.

Dollar wins reprieve from selling

REUTERS, Singapore/London

The dollar held steady on Tuesday, trading near a three-year low against the euro and a six-month trough against the yen, as investors trying to make sense of the constant changes to President Donald Trump's tariffs remained wary of US assets.

Much of the volatility that hit the dollar last week and sent Treasury yields soaring appeared to have abated somewhat on Tuesday, although investor sentiment was still fragile.

The dollar, which has been one of the biggest beneficiaries of this month's dumping of US assets, was a touch weaker on the day at \$1.1343, narrowly below last week's

three-year high at \$1.1474.

The dollar weakened by 0.2 percent against the yen to 142.855, not far off Friday's six-month low of 142.05.



After slumping to a 10-year low against the Swiss franc last week, the dollar was flat at 0.8144 francs on Tuesday. Still, it is down nearly 8 percent against the Swiss franc this month, set for its biggest monthly

drop since December 2008.

Market focus has been on the ever-shifting tariff headlines, with the US removing smartphones and other electronics from its duties on China over the weekend providing some relief, although comments from Trump suggested the reprieve is likely to be short-term.

Trump's imposition and then abrupt postponement of most tariffs on goods imported to the US has sown confusion, adding to the uncertainty for investors and policymakers around the world.

There was a greater sense of calm across the market on Tuesday. But given the uncertainty Trump and his vacillation over tariffs have stirred up, analysts expected the reprieve for the dollar to be short-lived.

Indonesia to lift US imports as part of tariffs talks

AFP, Jakarta

Indonesia is considering boosting its US imports as it tries to narrow its trade surplus with the country as part of upcoming negotiations with Washington, chief economic minister Airlangga Hartarto said.

The 32 percent tariffs imposed on Indonesia made it one of Asia's hardest hit by Donald Trump's sweeping measures that have sent shockwaves around the world.

Data from the US trade representative office shows Washington's goods trade deficit with Jakarta stood at \$17.9 billion in 2024, up 5.4 percent on-year.

“Indonesia will purchase goods from America according to Indonesia's needs,” Airlangga told reporters Monday.

He said last week that Jakarta would buy more products such as liquefied natural gas and liquefied petroleum gas to close the gap with the economic powerhouse, which is one of Indonesia's top trading partners.

Airlangga said he and other high-ranking Indonesian officials, including Foreign Minister Sugiono and Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati, will head to Washington for meetings with their US counterparts from April 16 to 23.

He added that they will hold talks with key members of Trump's team, including Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick and Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

“Indonesia is one of the countries that had the first opportunity to be invited to Washington,” Airlangga said.

Finance Minister Sri Mulyani said last week that Indonesia would adjust import taxes on some commodities from 2.5 percent to 0.5 percent, including mobile phones and laptops.

AFP, Washington

The United States opened the door on Monday to tariffs targeting high-end technology and pharmaceuticals, feeding the uncertainty gripping the global economy in a trade war that Chinese leader Xi Jinping warned can have “no winner.”

After weeks of indications such a move was coming, the US commerce secretary formally announced “national security” investigations into pharmaceutical imports, and another on semiconductors and chip-making equipment.

The specter of a broadening tariffs onslaught came as Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent touted momentum in talks with individual countries on reaching trade deals -- but with little detail offered.

On China, he said “there's a big deal to be done” but was notably vague about the timing or chances of it happening. Talks have begun with Vietnam and were to start with Japan on Wednesday, then South Korea next week, Bessent told Bloomberg TV.

Investors were relieved at the apparent easing of pressure in President Donald Trump's wide-ranging but often chaotic attempt to reorder the world economy

by using tariffs to force manufacturers to relocate to the United States.

Wall Street stocks finished solidly higher on Monday as markets greeted more conciliatory signs from the Trump administration on exemptions for key electronics. Asian and European markets were also boosted.



People line up at a pharmacy in the Manhattan borough of New York City. The US commerce secretary formally announced “national security” investigations into pharmaceutical imports, and another on semiconductors and chip-making equipment.

PHOTO: REUTERS/FILE

levies imposed on China this year rise to 145 percent, and Beijing setting a retaliatory 125 percent barrier on US imports.

Late Friday, US officials announced exemptions from the latest duties against China and others for a range of high-end tech goods such as smartphones, semiconductors and computers.

But Trump suggested Sunday that the exemption would be only temporary and that he still planned to put barriers up on imported semiconductors and much else.

In response, South Korea -- a major exporter to the United States and home to the world's largest memory chip maker Samsung -- announced on Tuesday plans to invest an additional \$4.9 billion in its semiconductor industry.

The South Korean finance ministry said “growing uncertainty” over US tariffs had left the country's powerful industry clamoring for support.

On Monday, Trump once again pivoted to suggesting possible compromise, saying in remarks at the White House that he was “very flexible” and “looking at something to help some of the car companies” hit by his 25 percent tariff on all auto imports.

“I don't want to hurt anybody,” he said.